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FBIS DAILY REPORT

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USSR REPORTED READY TO RESUME MBFR, ARMS TALKS

LD191109 Hamburg DPA in German 1032 GMT 19 Jan 84

[Text] Stockholm, 19 Jan (DPA) -- The Soviet Union has indicated willingness to resume missile talks, including talks on medium-range missiles. Twenty-four hours after the East-West dialogue got underway again in Stockholm, the first outlines of possible compromises became known in Stockholm today.

DPA learned from well-informed circles that the Soviets are considering, in the event of a resumption of the START talks on long-range missiles, also dealing with medium-range missiles in this forum. They would then be placed in the category of "forward-based systems."

The readiness to continue the troop reduction talks in Vienna, which became known on Wednesday after talks between Soviet Foreign Minister Andrey Gromyko and George Shultz (U.S.) and the West German foreign minister, Hans-Dietrich Genscher, were more clearly defined today. Another meeting in this round is expected in March.

It is further learned that progress can also be expected in the efforts to obtain a ban on chemical weapons. Shultz's comments about new types of U.S. proposals, of which there are at present no further details, particularly in relation to an agreement on banning chemical weapons, which had encountered a clearly formulated, positive interest on the part of Gromyko.

These talks are to be conducted in the UN Disarmament Committee in Geneva. They have so far been thwarted by the Soviet refusal to agree to control procedures.

Before this information from well-informed circles became known, the Federal Republic's government spokesman, Juergen Sudhoff, said in Stockholm today that "initial, distinct results" had become apparent. Sudhoff said that the breakthrough with regard to the willingness to resume dialogue is due to the "determination and active readiness to talk" on the part of the Western alliance.

In implementing the NATO two-track decision, the Federal Government has made an important contribution to the solidarity and decision-making ability of the alliance. The first result of this is now becoming evident in the resumption of East-West dialogue. Sudhoff spoke of indications that the Soviet Union would "not close its mind" to the West's readiness to talk.

Further Report

AU181827 Vienna ORF Teletext in German 1807 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] The USSR is ready for a resumption of the Vienna negotiations on a mutual, balanced troop reduction (MBFR) of NATO and the Warsaw Pact in Europe.

This was stated today by Soviet Foreign Minister Gromyko to Swedish Foreign Minister Bodstrom.

The Vienna negotiations could be resumed "if this is so desired," Gromyko said, according to Bodstrom's statement. The negotiations have not been broken off.

GROMYKO ADDRESS AT STOCKHOLM CONFERENCE

PM181828 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 19 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[Text] Addressing the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe, Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee, first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR and minister of foreign affairs of the USSR, said:

Esteemed Mr Chairman,

Representatives of 35 states have gathered here to initiate the proceedings of the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security and Disarmament in Europe.

It is good that the conference is being opened at the level of foreign ministers.

The European process has traveled a long and far from easy road from Helsinki to Madrid. It sometimes seemed that an impasse was ahead. Nevertheless, difficulties were eventually surmounted.

Now the states which differ so much from the point of view of their history, national traditions, size, and social systems have managed to bring here, to Stockholm, the light of hope lit in Helsinki. Isn't it evidence of the fact that no one today can ignore the will of the peoples for peace and cooperation?

That will should be embodied by participants in the conference in tangible agreements meeting the vital interests of the peoples. The recent meeting in Madrid showed that even under seriously aggravated international conditions, states with different social systems have possibilities of reaching agreement, if they so wish, on a mutually acceptable basis.

One of the pressing tasks is to strengthen confidence between countries, confidence both in the political and military fields.

This is especially demanded by the present, tense international situation. The cause of the drastic turn for the worse in the international situation, of the increased danger of war, is outlined in no uncertain terms in Yuriy Andropov's recent statements. The Leninist peace-loving foreign policy of the Soviet Union is presented in them.

The deployment of new U.S. missiles that has begun in certain West European countries does not contribute to international security or to the security of the countries which have taken the risk of such deployment. On the contrary, whatever those figures in the West who base their policies on deception of the peoples might claim, these missiles are subverting security. Militarism, enmity, and a war psychosis are being exported to Western Europe along with the missiles. Those who are trying to lull the peoples of the West European countries with false promises of peace in the shadow of U.S. missiles are incurring grave responsibility for this deception.

The dangerous slide towards the abyss can be checked if the states participating in this forum show a responsible approach. We repeat: If the United States and the other NATO countries show readiness to return to the situation which existed before the beginning of the deployment of U.S. medium-range nuclear missiles in Europe, the Soviet Union will also be ready to do so.

The Soviet-U.S. dialogue on the limitation of nuclear arms in Europe was blown up through the fault of the U.S. Administration. Instead of conducting talks and displaying a desire to work for accord, the U.S. Administration has chosen a course of breaking the existing alignment of forces.

It has set out to secure military superiority over the Soviet Union, superiority of the NATO countries over the Warsaw Treaty countries, through the huge buildup of its nuclear armaments. This, U.S. strategists believe, could ensure victory in a nuclear war. Just yesterday the U.S. leaders, both those with epaulets on their shoulders and those without them, were quite cynically discoursing on that subject.

Perhaps they have now realized the senselessness of nuclear war scenarios they are drawing up? By no means. How do the peoples and public opinion respond to these delirious plans? With outrage and protests.

The plans are followed by U.S. budgetary appropriations for military purposes, which are growing at an unheard-of pace. New missiles, bombers, and aircraft carriers are being built at full speed with manical obsession. Experiments with new means of mass destruction are being conducted.

In short, the incumbent U.S. Administration is an administration thinking in categories of war and acting accordingly.

Naturally, those who have assumed a course of war have no interest in reaching arms limitation agreements. That is why the SALT II treaty signed by the United States at one point was subsequently overturned by Washington. For the same reason, the U.S. side refuses to conduct talks on the basis of the principle of equality and equal security, the only fair principle, and ignores the existing agreements. Instead of equality, they are pressing unjustified and ambitious demands on us; moreover, pressing them merely to block agreement.

The Soviet Union has always proceeded and continues to proceed from the assumption that the concluded agreements must be strictly observed. This applies both to miltilateral and to bilateral agreements. These are the abc's of international relations, without which no elementary trust between states is possible. The Washington politicians, to all appearances, have not yet learned these abc's, and every now and then you come across facts of the grossest violations by the United States of America of its commitments under international treaties and agreements.

The Soviet Union, for its part, is taking a responsible and serious approach to its commitments and is honestly observing them. The attempts to call this fact into question -- Washington's stock-in-trade method by now -- are merely intended to conceal their own failings. But however often such ploys are resorted to, they cannot delude anyone who can objectively evaluate the situation.

Our country makes the prevention of war, first and foremost nuclear war, the cornerstone of its foreign policy. It would not be out of place to recall that the USSR and the United States have an agreement on this matter.

Together with our friends and allies, we have made the proposal to clear Europe of nuclear weapons, both medium-range and tactical ones. Would this not be the best and most radical solution? Throughout the duration of the Geneva talks, we were pressing for this, calling for major reductions in medium-range nuclear arms. But the other side was thinking -- and continues to think today -- only of how to move its missiles closer to our threshold.

The USSR was and remains a convinced champion of the solution of outstanding international problems at the negotiating table. This is our principled line in conducting international affairs. But we stand for serious talks, not for those which would be used as a cover for militarist plans.

We warned, and on more than once occasion, that the deployment of U.S. "Pershing" and cruise missiles in Western Europe would thwart the basis of the talks and make them impossible. Having gone ahead with missile deployment, Washington deprived those talks of their subject matter. The current statements of the U.S. Administration on its readiness for talks under conditions of continuing missile deployment are just verbal camouflage of its policy.

Militarism is inhuman in everything and always. This fact is making itself most manifest today in Lebanon. That country is being effectively torn apart, Lebanese soil is being trampled by the boots of troops sent into the country by some of those states whose representatives are sitting in this hall. A U.S. naval armada is shelling Lebanese cities.

The American military machine is sowing death and destruction in Lebanon. The aggressor, who has entered another person's home and is trying by force of arms to impose the orders its wants there, is pretending to be offended, crying out, "we are being attacked and we must defend ourselves." Defend against whom? Against those who are victim of aggression, those who have been attacked? It is difficult to even imagine a greater mockery of facts, common sense, and elementary notions of international law.

There is a serious danger that the flames of war might spread to that entire area, which is a short distance away from Europe. It shall be recalled that under the Helsinki Final Act, all states have undertaken to facilitate peace and the reduction of armed forces in the Mediterranean area, to lessen tension in that area. It is appropriate to recall this today as well.

And can any upright person be indifferent to what has happened to Grenada? The piratic, terrorist action of the great neighbor against the Grenadian people is a challenge to the world at large. The United States must withdraw its troops from Grenada. They have no business there.

It is an open secret who is sending bands of mercenaries, terrorists against Nicaragua, who is turning Honduras into its military base, who is keeping an antipeople regime of butchers in power in El Salvador. All that is absent in that country now are the bonfires of the inquisition.

Militarism in a certain sense is akin to drug addiction, though, of course, it is more dangerous. On getting into the habit, it will demand for itself in ever-increasing doses the means of destroying people if an end is not put to this by the efforts of all peace-loving forces.

The aggressive foreign policy of the United States is the main danger to peace now. The militaristic course in world affairs is a product of the policy of those countries where the arms race is the most profitable business of the arms merchants. Ever more and more people are realising this fact, are beginning to understand how paltry are the narrow interests of profit and avarice of the military-industrial business compared with the vital interests of peoples.

Let us turn to the results of the recent 38th session of the UN General Assembly. Two opposite approaches to the most important and urgent problems of our time were clearly manifest at it.

How did this international organization react to the initiative to resolutely condemn nuclear war, to proclaim it a crime against peoples? The overwhelming majority of UN member countries, situated in different continents and belonging to difference social and political systems, approved this call and adopted an appropriate declaration with enthusiasm. And what about the United States of America? It ranged itself against the international community by voting against.

Let us take another proposal -- to freeze nuclear arms, to step up efforts directed at the speediest attainment of agreements on their substantial limitation and radical reduction. This proposal, too, was met with the support of the overwhelming majority of UN member states. And what was the position of the United States? It again said "No," and found itself in total isolation.

We express satisfaction that the Soviet initiative formed the core of the resolution on the need to adopt effective measures to avert the arms race in outer space. And here, too, the United States came out in opposition, although only the blind cannot see what a danger will threaten mankind from outer space if it is militarized.

What are these, pure coincidences? Of course not. The peoples indignantly reject all concepts of nuclear war and view as criminal the plans to prepare and unleash it.

States with different social systems have no reasonable alternative other than peaceful coexistence and cooperation. We have always come out for a political dialogue between the East and West and do not intend to renounce it in the future either. But this, of course, is proceeding from the understanding that it will be directed not in words, but in deeds at easing tension in the world and removing the danger of war.

Indeed, what is needed is deeds and not verbal equilibristics, the resort to which has been made particularly often in Washington lately. They clearly are a sign of short-term considerations, and people already know sufficiently well the worth of such tricks. No matter how hard one tries to lie -- be it a crude lie or a virtuoso one -- this will change nothing in the actual state of affairs. What is needed is a turn of substance in policy -- from the policy of militarism and aggression to a policy of peace and international cooperation.

On its part, the Soviet Union, as was stressed once again in the recent resolution of the Supreme Soviet of the USSR, will, in the measure in which it depends on it, take the further necessary steps leading to a change of the international situation for the better.

I would like to believe that in the leading circles of the United States, the upper hand will be taken by the understanding of the balefulness of the course based on the replacement of cooperation with confrontation, of talks with armaments, and diplomacy with the rule of the fist.

The conference that has begun cannot be artificially fenced off from the present-day European and world realities, from the impact of events taking place outside the walls of this hall. But we hold that the Stockholm forum must effectively help the countries that are interested in the development of the all-European process in searching for and finding ways leading to the strengthening of international trust and security.

Many problems that are now aggravating the situation in the European Continent would lend themselves to solution much easier were it possible to break the ice of mistrust and commence a real reduction of armaments and disarmament.

What does this require? This requires the improvement of the political climate, the awareness by all states of the truth that no lasting confidence can be secured with the continued preaching of hostility, hatred, and reckless "crusades" and tagging illiterate labels on entire countries and peoples.

And surely it is impossible to talk about confidence while at the same time working on concepts that promote nuclear war. These are incompatible.

As has been stressed by Yuriy Andropov "the main road to confidence, to preventing any and all wars, including an accidental one, is that of stopping the arms race and going back to calm, proper [korrektnyy] relations between states, back to detente."

The convening of the Stockholm conference is a manifestation of the rational principle in international relations, and all of us must value this in equal measure. Nobody is doing any favor to anybody else.

The Soviet Union has come to the conference with good intentions. We will be upholding here a position of peace among states and peoples and trying to ensure that the conference will make a substantial contribution to putting state-to-state relations right, and will help to end the mad arms race. We stand for the atmosphere of trust in relations between countries. It is necessary for the settlement of conflicts, for the development of mutually useful ties and contacts. The Soviet stand consists in having the Helsinki Final Act developed in practice in Stockholm through new, major agreements.

We are discussing in a principled way the question of trust in relations between states. It must be said in this connection that from the outset, the incumbent U.S. Administration has been doing everything to subvert confidence in it and, it should be said, it has already succeeded in doing so.

Can one fail to pay attention to the fact, in particular, that Washington has embraced secret subversive operations and terrorism against other states? It has included all these criminal and dishonest methods in the arsenal of its official foreign policy, and they are used in practice against a number of countries, and they are used in practice against a number of countries, against statesmen of those countries, and against their social systems.

We might ask: Aren't we justified in expecting that activity of this sort will be immediately stopped? If the opinion of this conference is worth anything, we should clearly declare this and call on all who are engaged in such activity to stop it, observe generally recognized norms of handling interstate affairs, and end insulting rhetoric with regard to other countries.

A difference in social systems of states, in their ideology, cannot be used for not observing generally recognized norms of behavior in international affairs, in contacts [obshcheniye] between states and their leaders.

The Soviet Union is prepared for a constructive examination of a broad spectrum of measures for strengthening confidence and security. These measures should comprise major accords of a military-political nature and other steps towards establishing confidence. To limit oneself to any one direction would mean to narrow the available possibilities.

The results of the conference will largely depend on a political and businesslike attitude adopted at the very beginning of its work. If all the states arrived in Stockholm with serious intentions, this will enable the conference to concentrate on large-scale means of consolidating confidence and security.

At this forum too, we are frankly setting forth our ideas on this score. Above all, this is the issue of preventing nuclear war. Resounding ever more resolutely throughout the world is the voice of millions upon millions of people demanding that reliable measures be adopted to divert a nuclear threat from mankind. If we seriously want to establish necessary trust in relations between countries, the approach to removing this threat should also be serious.

How much stronger the trust would be if the states possessing nuclear weapons assumed the pledge not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. This seems to be a simple measure that is easy to implement. No second strike may come without the first one. Would it not bring about a real political turn in the cause of strengthening trust, and not only between nuclear powers?

The Soviet Union already has unilaterally assumed the commitment not to be the first to use nuclear weapons. We are recalling this from the podium of the Stockholm conference as well. The other nuclear powers taking part in the conference have not as yet assumed such a pledge. The question is: Can one place trust in their policy under these conditions?

We proceed from the premise that all states -- nuclear and non-nuclear -- are equally interested in the adoption of this pledge and its unconditional observance. No arguments, however refined, against its adoption can be accepted as convincing if one sticks to the positions of peace.

There is one more very important confidence-building measure -- namely, the mutual obligations of states not to be the first to use either nuclear or conventional weapons against one another, in other words, not to use force. Our position on this matter is also clear. In January 1983, together with the other Warsaw Pact member-countries, we put forward the proposal for a treaty on the mutual nonuse of military force and maintenance of relations of peace. Under the present circumstances, this proposal is becoming increasingly relevant.

It would be only natural if such obligations were assumed by states irrespective of whether they belong to military alliances, are neutral, nonaligned. This is fully consistent with the letter and spirit of the Helsinki Final Act and is provided for in the mandate of the Stockholm conference, which clearly points to the need "to give effect and expression to the duty of states to refrain from the threat or use of force in their mutual relations." This will not contravene their status of neutral or nonaligned states. They will align themselves only with one thing -- with peace.

The treaty could also embody other important provisions, such as a pledge by its parties to act in good will with a view to halting the arms race and achieving disarmament and to contribute by every available means to a successful accomplishment of this historic task. It could also include other provisions designed to build confidence, develop cooperation, and lessen military confrontation.

We have expressed our considerations here regarding two major confidence-building measures. While the implementation of just one of those measures would signify a tremendous move forward, we are proposing both of them. If the conference could agree on these moves, this would undoubtedly constitute the greatest accomplishment of this forum.

Other initiatives of the Soviet Union and the countries of the socialist community also offer a good many opportunities for creating an atmosphere of confidence and stronger security. We would like to believe that all states represented here will make their contribution to the work of the Stockholm conference.

For example, it would be worthwhile addressing the problem of reducing military spending. Agreement to this end would also constitute a major contribution to building confidence and would at the same time be a real means of curbing the arms race.

The task of overcoming mistrust between states would be undoubtedly met by ridding Europe of such barbaric weapons of mass annihilation as chemical ones, and, above all, by not deploying such weapons in places where they have not been based up to now. The urgency of this task is emphasized by the fact that inhuman plans in the field of chemical weapons are gaining currency, although attempts are being made to camouflage it.

A number of European states favor the establishment of nuclear-free zones in various parts of Europe. This issue is directly linked with the lessening of the war menace, with the consolidation of confidence. The conference would act correctly by giving it serious attention.

Here, in the capital of one of the Scandinavian countries, it would be appropriate to recall that the Soviet Union backs the proposal for declaring northern Europe a zone free from nuclear weapons. In our opinion, the establishment of this zone is both desirable and possible.

We duly appreciate the confidence-building measures which have been already implemented in accordance with the Helsinki Final Act. They have proved their usefulness. At the 26th CPSU Congress, in several joint documents of the Warsaw Pact countries, we came out in favor of their further expansion, naturally, with due account for the current situation. The USSR will stick to this line in the future as well. We are prepared to work out additional measures, more substantial in their character and far-reaching in terms of their scope, for strengthening trust in the military sphere.

For example, the question of prior notification of major military maneuvers could be further developed. Agreement to limit the scale of such maneuvers to a certain numerical strength of the forces engaged would also be quite topical.

The question of major military movements and redeployment of troops also deserves most serious attention. It is worth recalling that the Helsinki Final Act states that "further consideration will be given to the question of prior notification of major military movements."

In our view, the interests of peace and security would also be served by prior notification of major air and naval exercises which take place in the sea and ocean area and in airspace adjoining Europe.

On the whole, the Soviet Union is prepared to support such confidence-and security-building measures that will indeed contribute to a real lessening of military confrontation. However, should anyone think of using the conference in a bid to gain unilateral advantages of any kind, this would encounter vigourous opposition on our part.

All the participants in the conference should be equally interested in its success. Everything must be done on a just and objective basis. Any attempts at the conference to advance demands unacceptable right from the start and, rather than build confidence, look for a crack in the fence to peep at one's neighbor, could only impede its productive work.

The Soviet Union is firmly committed to the mandate agreed upon at Madrid, which unambiguously stipulates that any decisions concerning confidence and security building measures should be taken "on the basis of equality of rights, balance and reciprocity, and equal respect for the security interests of all CSCE participating states."

The peoples of Europe expect the conference in Stockholm to take decisions which would be instrumental in changing the course of events for the better. What we wish to see is that agreements, if they can be reached, are implemented instead of shelved.

The next followup meeting after Madrid, to be held in Vienna in 1986, has among other tasks that of assessing the progress achieved during the first stage of the conference. That meeting will only gain if confidence and security building measures to be agreed upon in Stockholm start being implemented and become a fact of life rather than remain draft documents.

The achievement of positive results at the Stockholm conference would strengthen the conviction that detente in Europe has a considerable reserve of vitality. There are forces which are known to be eager to perform the last rights for detente. But the people treasure the fruits borne by detente during the 1970's. It cannot be allowed to die for it expresses the people's quest for peace and life.

In all probability, Europe, more than any other continent, is predisposed today to peaceful cooperation in various areas because the economies, cultures, and histories of its peoples are closely intertwined.

That is what the peoples of other continents also expect from our conference. They hope that common sense and reason will prevail here, in Stockholm, and that all the participants in the conference will demonstrate political will and a sense of responsibility.

In conclusion, allow me to express my appreciation to the people and Government of Sweden and to the city authorities of Stockholm for the good conditions for the holding of the conference and for their hospitality.

DETAILS OF GROMYKO-SHULTZ MEETING REPORTED

PM191025 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 84 Second Edition p 3

[Text] USSR Minister of Foreign Affairs Andrey Gromyko, member of the Politburo of the CPSU Central Committee and first deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, who is here in connection with the opening of the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe, had a meeting with the secretary of state of the United States, George Shultz.

The conversation dealt with the key questions of world politics and the state of Soviet-U.S. relations. From the Soviet side, it was conducted in a totally frank and principled manner in the spirit of Yuriy Andropov's statements of September 28 and November 24, 1983.

Citing concrete facts, Andrey Gromyko showed that militarism, striving to acquire dominant positions in the world, open disregard of the lawful interests, social system, and way of life of other peoples, are becoming increasingly characteristic of the present U.S. Administration's foreign policy course. The actions of the United States in international affairs contradict the cause of universal peace and complicate the solution of ripe problems.

The responsibility borne by the United States for the dangerous consequences of the deployment of new U.S. missiles, which has been started in Western Europe and which made impossible the continuation of talks on medium-range nuclear weapons and put in doubt altogether the entire process of limiting nuclear arms, was particularly pointed out to the secretary of state.

It was also emphasized that the former talks in Geneva could be resumed only in the event the United States displayed readiness to return to the situation that had existed prior to the commenced deployment of U.S. missiles in Europe. The Soviet Union then, would be prepared to do this too.

If this condition is not met, the Soviet side, in order to prevent the disruption of the existing balance of forces, will continue to implement, including in coordination with other socialist countries, appropriate countermeasures that had been announced earlier.

At the same time, the Soviet Union, displaying all necessary concern for its security, the security of its friends and allies, will not spare efforts in the future in the interests of preserving and strengthening peace.

Andrey Gromkyo resolutely denounced Washington's course toward heightening tension in various parts of the world, toward aggravating the existing and establishing new conflict situations, toward escalating gross, including military, interference in the affairs of sovereign states, as this is happening in the Middle East, Central America, southern Africa, and other areas.

In connection with George Shultz's claim that the United States is seeking greater international stability, it was said to him that the practical actions of the U.S. Administration do not tally with it. The Soviet appraisal of these actions is shared by the vast majority of the world's states, which was graphically confirmed at the recent session of the UN General Assembly.

Also touched upon in the course of the conversation were questions concerning the work of the Stockholm conference.

GROMYKO MEETS WITH SWEDISH COUNTERPART

LD181443 Moscow TASS in English 1426 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Stockholm January 18 TASS -- Member of the Political Bureau of the CPSU Central Committee, First Deputy Chairman of the Council of Ministers of the USSR, Minister of Foreign Affairs of the USSR Andrey Gromyko had a meeting with the foreign minister of Sweden, Lennart Bodstrom.

It was noted with satisfaction from both sides that Andrey Gromyko 's conversations in Stockholm with Swedish statesmen will serve the cause of expanding contacts at a high political level and the further development of Soviet-Swedish relations.

Andrey Gromyko and Lennart Bodstrom expressed hope that the Conference on Confidence-Building Measures, Security and Disarmament in Europe, that has opened here, will make a contribution to the cause of creating favourable conditions for peaceful development in the European Continent.

The USSR ambassador in Sweden, Boris Pankin, was present at the conversation.

U.S. PLANS TO TEST ANTISATELLITE WEAPON NOTED

LD190630 Moscow Domestic Service in Russian 2110 GMT 18 Jan 84

[From "the International Diary" program presented by Vitaliy Sobolev]

[Text] The current reports from abroad contain a great deal of information on the militarist plans of imperialist circles and the continuous antiwar activities to crush those plans. Reports from Washington, for instance, say that the United States intends by the end of the month to carry out tests of antisatellite weapons. A two-stage rocket with a dummy warhead, which has been nicknamed in the United States "tomato tin", will be launched from an F-15 fighter aircraft at a height of 20 km. These tests had been planned a long time but were postponed, according to a Pentagon representative, due to mechanical faults.

However, many observers point out that Washington did not want to begin tests at the very time when the Soviet Union put forward initiatives for preventing an arms race in space. The White House was afraid of provoking an even greater wave of demonstrations against the militarist policy of the United States.

THE WASHINGTON POST reports on yet another plan for increasing the U.S. military arsenals. We are talking here about chemical weapons. The socialist countries have just proposed to free Europe from such weapons, as a step towards fully banning and eliminating them, and the Pentagon has now decided to include in its draft budget for 1985 an allocation amounting to tens of millions of dollars for the production of so-called binary ammunition although the U.S. Army even without this has between 35,000 and 40,000 tons of toxic substances. Evidently the American leaders seem to think that the time has come to begin the production of new weapons in space and on the earth, weapons which would not even be described as conventional.

'CONTRADICTION' SEEN IN REAGAN'S WORDS, DEEDS

LD171907 Moscow World Service in English 1810 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] When President Reagan made his speech on Monday he concentrated on relations with the Soviet Union. Our commentary was prepared by Viktor Olin.

The news media in various countries agree that Reagan's speech reflected a fear that the bad relations with the USSR can undermine his wish to remain President. That explains the fact that Mr Reagan repeatedly claimed that he was ready to improve relations with the Soviet Union. We will negotiate in good faith, he said. Whenever the Soviet Union is ready to do likewise we'll meet them halfway.

It would be natural to expect, commentaries note, that these words are followed by the enumeration of steps that the U.S. Administration is ready to take to go its halfway. The administration has plenty of chances to do so, but President Reagan let the chances slip. He could for instance, as the press says, help resume the talks on nuclear arms in Europe, the talks that came to a blind alley because the United States didn't want to move towards an agreement. Washington bent every effort to make the USSR go the whole way and agree to unilateral disarmament in accordance with the so-called zero option and interim plan. When nothing came of it, the administration began to deploy a new generation of first-strike nuclear missiles in Western Europe in the hope of secure military supremacy over the Soviet Union.

It goes without saying, the news media note, that these actions had nothing in common with the interest in better relations with the USSR. Washington's attitude stalled the talks on nuclear arms in Europe and this in turn affected the consideration of other problems.

Nevertheless, there is a way out of the blind alley. It was shown in the statement of the Soviet leader, Yuriy Andropov, of 24th November last year. If the United States and other NATO countries, it said, will display readiness to return to the situation which existed before the beginning of the deployment of American medium-range missiles, the Soviet Union will be ready to do so too. It is necessary to restore the shifted balance, without which it is impossible to meet each other halfway. This could result in the full riddance of Europe from nuclear arms as the Soviet Union is proposing, progress in solving other acute problems, and the improvement os Soviet-American relations.

However, news analysts conclude, President Reagan's speech made it clear that equality and equal security is not the principle the U.S. Administration is going to follow. The position from strength and the military superiority of the United States remain its platform.

This contradiction between words and deeds has not remained unnoticed. The next day after the President's speech, THE NEW YORK TIMES said editorially: Time to talk, the President says. It's a worthy and welcome position no matter how far he traveled to achieve it. But it would be much more assuring had he done more to pursue it in the last 3 years, or even yesterday. He could have moved the strategic arms talks along by ratifying the SALT treaty. He could have pursued a treaty banning nuclear weapons in space. He could have pushed for a comprehensive test ban treaty. He could still do all that and more. Reagan says he judges the Russians by their deeds not their words. It is a sensible way for American voters to judge him, writes the editorial in THE NEW YORK TIMES.

DMITREYEV CONTRASTS REAGAN'S REMARKS ON USSR

LD171335 Moscow in English to North America 0000 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Observer Igor Dmitreyev commentary]

[Text] After 3 years of harsh anti-Soviet rhetoric, including his notorious remark about leaving Marxism-Leninism on the ash heap of history, President Reagan acknowledged that there is no rational alternative to peaceful coexistence between the United States and the USSR. Neither we nor the Soviet Union, he went on to say, can wash away the differences between our societies and our philosophies. But we should always remember that we do have common interests and the foremost among them is to avoid war and reduce the levels of arms.

His speech in the White House on Monday was directed at three distinct audiences: American voters, the Soviet Union, and Western Europe. At the end of January Ronald Reagan is expected to formally announce his plans to run for reelection. Counting on the short memory of American voters, the President sought to portray himself and his administration as a responsible team who can be trusted with running foreign policy to the benefit of the nation. But a switch of tone, not of policy, does not mean that in 1984 Ronald Reagan is any different from what he was in the 3 previous years.

A major foreign policy document signed by Defense Secretary Casper Weinberger a year ago says that there can be no accommodation with the Soviet Union. It is the fiscal 1984-88 defense guidance. And now Mr Reagan is talking about peaceful competition being the only rational alternative.

In 1981 Ronald Reagan spoke very rationally about a limited nuclear war in Europe. Next year, also very rationally, he declared a crusade against the Soviet Union in the British Parliament. He was very rational last March when he announced plans to extend the arms race to outer space. Today Ronald Reagan appears to be as rational about peaceful competition with the Soviet Union as he was before when he flatly rejected it.

We all know the saying: Let bygones be bygones. But foreign policy is not built on words, good intentions, or one's vocabulary. It is built on concrete deeds. What is the basis for Soviet-American relationships now that Ronald Reagan is talking about peaceful competition between the two nations? It's a record military budget that will be growing. It's a long-term program of building new warheads. By the end of the century the United States plans to replace the existing arsenals by entirely new ones of 29,000 nuclear warheads.

The basis for Soviet-American relationships offered by Ronald Reagan is the arms race in outer space. In February he will announce plans to include the production of space weapons as part of the fiscal 1985 budget.

The President's claims that military strength brings security is a dangerous illusion. By chasing military superiority the administration is taking the nation to a point of no return.

DEMOCRATIC CONTENDERS' TV DEBATE VIEWED

PM181035 Moscow SOTSIALISTICHESKAYA INDUSTRIYA in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 5

[N. Setunskiy dispatch: "American Voters' Concern"]

[Text] New York -- The Reagan administration's foreign and domestic policies have been sharply criticized by all eight contenders for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination during the current election campaign's first public debate, held in Hanover (New Hampshire).

Noting that at present there is no task more important than eliminating the threat of nuclear war and ending the arms race, Senator A. Cranston said: "Reagan claims that he supports arms control but let us look at the record. He has opposed everything that has been proposed in this sphere." None of his so-called arms limitation proposals "has been serious, none has been acceptable to the Soviet Union," the senator stressed.

The course of the debate organized by the Democratic faction in the House of Representatives and broadcast on television was marked by American voters' profound concern at the current Washington administration's reckless policy, which is pushing the world toward nuclear war. All the participants in the debate said that the next U.S. President's paramount task must be to remove the nuclear danger. "There is no more important problem in our time," Senator G. Hart stated, "than that of ending the nuclear arms race." In this context he advocated an immediate nuclear arms freeze.

He was supported by former Vice President W. Mondale, Senators J. Glenn and A. Cranston, the black politician J. Jackson, and former Senator G. McGovern. G. Hart advocated that the production and deployment of the very latest weapons systems such as MX, ICBM's, and B-1 strategic bombers be abandoned. G. McGovern, for his part, proposed that U.S. military spending be cut by 25 percent.

The participants in the debate paid considerable attention to criticism of "Reagonomics." They stressed that the vast U.S. budget deficit threatens the U.S. economy with new blows. It was noted that astronomical military spending is the main cause of the deficit.

The presidential contenders pointed out that "Reaganomics" is inflicting heavy blows on the poor, the unemployed, and the ethnic minorities, who have fallen victim to the sharp reduction in spending on social programs. "Americans are shown the Wall Street share index but they are not shown the index of suffering" of people, J. Jackson stated. Nevertheless, he continued, "15 percent of the U.S. population is living in poverty. In the past 3 years the poor have increased by 5 million."

FURTHER COMMENT ON DEMOCRATIC ELECTION PROGRAM

PM171153 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Jan 84 p 3

[Political observer Sergey Losev "Views of Events": "Bankruptcy of the Antidetente Policy"]

[Text] With the advent of 1984, America is summing up the results of the Reagan administration's first 3 years in power. This is all the more important since the presidential elections are coming up this November.

The world has already passed judgment on the current U.S. Administration's switch from the policy of peaceful coexistence to a policy of confrontation, international piracy, terrorism, and diktat, a switch that is dangerous for the peoples' security. The U.S. torpedoing of the Geneva talks on nuclear arms limitation in Europe, the armed U.S. intervention in Grenada and Central America, the U.S. military's direct participation in the Israeli aggression against the Arab countries, the advocacy of the export of counterrevolution to the "Third World" countries, and the declaration of a "crusade" against the socialist community -- all this seriously faces humanity with the question of whether there are any limits to the adventurism of the current U.S. rulers.

But, naturally, world public opinion is interested in what judgment Americans themselves pass on U.S. policy. In this regard there is definite interest in the recently published "Democratic Program for the Country's Future," which has been elaborated by a group of eminent figures from the U.S. Democratic Party and the Democratic Party National Committee.

The authors of this political document make the qualification at the outset that they are not setting forth the Democratic Party's official position, but at the same time they propose an action program on which most Democratic Party candidates in the 1984 presidential elections can agree.

Of course, it would be hard to expect the Democratic Party, which, like the Republicans, represents the interests of U.S. monopoly capital, to offer the country a genuine choice on questions of the economy and the redistribution of national wealth.

Nonetheless, the views set out in this election platform on the problems of foreign policy clearly condemn the Reagan administration's adventurist course aimed at achieving military superiority over the Soviet Union and at undermining the foundations of peaceful coexistence and the Soviet-American agreements which were reached with such difficulty over the course of the last decade.

In the opinion of the authors of the program, "America is threatened by three main dangers: the growing budget deficit, the escalation of the nuclear arms race, and the fall in the competitiveness of U.S. goods and equipment on the U.S. market itself and abroad. Today, with the Republicans in power, the government is treating these dangers with clear indifference and is incapable of developing bold and creative alternatives.

"Three serious dangers -- the uncontrolled colossal federal budget deficits, the drop in state and private investment, and the lethal buildup of nuclear arms -- are today jeopardizing our vision of the future."

In recent months official U.S. propaganda has made considerable efforts to suggest to U.S. society the thought of the imaginary U.S. "capacity" to simultaneously ensure the exorbitant growth of military spending, which in the next 5 years will exceed $2 trillion and at the same time guarantee the boosting of the U.S. economy. The data adduced in the Democratic Party document provide an extremely convincing refutation of this theory, which has been disproved once already, under President Johnson, who promised America "guns and butter."

On arriving in the White House, President Reagan promised on behalf of the Republican Party to reduce the federal budget deficit. In actual fact in the first 3 years of its term of office the present administration has produced a deficit larger than any the United States has had since 1942, including the deficits during World War II. At the end of fiscal 1985 the U.S. national debt -- even working on the basis that there will be some economic growth -- will reach $1,852 billion. And $853 billion of this sum will be the legacy of the Reagan administrarion. "Reaganomics" will increase the burden of America's state debt by 85 percent compared with the sum that had built up over the entire period of the United States' existence. As the Democratic Party theses point out, such an enormous deficit is the result of "Reagan's unbalanced budget program. It is quite elementary: Reagan's plan, with its tax reductions for the rich and the giant buildup of military potential, means that the growth in federal expenditure outstrips the growth of treasury revenue -- even when the economy is working at full capacity."

In the final analysis, as the report's authors point out, it is quite possible that the United States will be unable to foot the bill even for the most pressing social needs. As is well known, the administration has sharply cut social spending, striking at the interests of the lowest paid sectors of the population. Now, the report stresses, "there is no more fat to cut from the programs aimed at feeding the needy, giving children an education, and providing the aged and the poor with some kind of decent life."

Of course, the Democrats are putting forward "care for the poor" as an election slogan. But the Democratic Party is truly and seriously concerned by the noticeable U.S. lag behind the European Common Market countries and Japan in the growth of labor productivity, in scientific and technical progress, and in the development of technology.

The excessive expenditure on the militarization of the country and the satisfaction of the insatiable needs of the military-industrial complex, to which the current administration owes its presence in power, have only promoted the deepening of this process that is dangerous for America's future.

Surely nobody will argue with the conclusion of the program's authors that "America's security cannot be guaranteed by arms alone," that "might cannot be based solely on force of arms," and that "strength stems from the economy's soundness."

What kind of picture of America's economic life emerges not from the White House's advertising prospectuses, but from the report by America's major opposition bourgeois party?

Despite the present administration's optimistic forecasts about the start of an alleged "long-term economic upsurge," the authors of the Democrats' program stress that labor productivity growth rates in the seventies in the United States slowed sharply in comparison with the sixties.

In the United States labor productivity grew at the rate of 3.3 percent per year in 1947-1965, at 2.4 percent per year in 1965-1972, and at 0.2 percent in around the last 5 years. "In other words, labor productivity growth in America has virtually stopped... If productivity growth is not resumed Americans can only expect to see their standard of living stagnate."

Although signs are now appearing that the U.S. economy is coming out of the most prolonged recession since the great depression of the thirties, unemployment in the country remains extremely high, inflation growth rates are not falling, and the enormous budget deficits continue to grow. If present policy is not changed, then the United States, in the opinion of the Democratic Party, will experience either a new recession, which will erupt in at least 2 years' time, or a new flareup of inflation.

The report states that the Reagan administration's reliance on military strength and its rejection of diplomatic means in settling international problems has still further undermined the shaky U.S. prestige in the world. The present administration perceives the real world as though in a distorting mirror and approaches international problems simplistically, seeing every crisis that arises exclusively from the viewpoint of conflict and confrontation between the Soviet Union and the United States. As a result of this false interpretation of world events, the report goes on to note, "the Reagan administration has greatly complicated relations with the Soviet Union and has also been unable to improve ties with friendly countries or developing states."

As for the developing states, the report's authors do not have very much to say. The present U.S. Administration has essentially returned to the Dulles doctrine that considered the Nonaligned Movement "immoral."

Moreover, with regard to a whole number of developing countries, especially small ones, the Reagan administration has raised armed intervention, international piracy, and terror to the level of U.S. state policy, claiming the right to dictate to other peoples how they should live and organize their own affairs. The document's authors warn that the "big stick policy" pursued by Reagan is contrary to U.S. national interests.

The Democrats save their sharpest criticism for the present administration's approach to the problems of peace and international security. "The impression has been created," the report points out, "that the present administration has no interest at all in arms control."

As is well known, the U.S. delegation in Geneva pretended for 2 years to negotiate. In actual fact from the very start just one aim was being pursued -- to site Pershing II and cruise missiles in Europe at all costs. By starting their deployment in the FRG, Britain, and Italy, the United States torpedoed the talks, making them pointless.

The report recommends making a top-to-bottom reassessment of U.S. needs in the sphere of ensuring national security and changing accordingly American doctrines in the sphere of defense and federal budget priorities.

Walter Mondale, one of the contenders for the Democratic Party's presidential nomination, detailed the Democratic Party's plans in a recent interview. Stressing that he supports "strong, but sensible defense," Mondale said that in the event of his being elected U.S. President he would embark on negotiations with the USSR on freezing nuclear arsenals, would maintain the ABM treaty, would present the SALT II treaty for ratification in the U.S. Senate, and would resume negotiations on the complete and total banning of nuclear tests.

WICH RECORDINGS SHOW USIA'S 'AFFINITY' WITH CIA

PM181155 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 17 Jan 84 p 3

[Vadim Biryukov article: "The United States: The 'Big Ear' of Charles Wich"]

[Text] USIA Director Charles Wick taped telephone conversations that he made in his office during 1982 and 1983 without the knowledge of his interlocutors. Republican Senator Mark Hatfield in particular was a victim of the espionage methods to which Wich resorts in his work, according to an NBC TV report.

The scandal to do with the fact that the USIA uses CIA methods in its work was not a sensation in Washington, even though White House spokesman L. Speakes has said that no one at the state level has engaged in eavesdropping since the Watergate scandal. We will dispute this thesis later. For the moment, let us note that the disclosure represents virtually no threat to Wick at all.

It is not just that he is a close friend of the President. It is also that, contrary to the letter of U.S. law, the practice of eavesdropping has become so customary in U.S. political life that it would not occur to anyone in the White House now to take the new scandal seriously.

The facts demonstrate that eavesdropping was and remains a favorite occupation of high-ranking U.S. officials. Thus, President Eisenhower's aircraft was literally crammed with electronic espionage equipment and Eisenhower used to "combine" his state visits with the gathering of intelligence information when flying over the territory of sovereign countries. During his years in the White House Oval Office, President Kennedy never forgot to switch on his secret recording device to tape the contents of his conversations with visitors, without their knowledge, of course. As for the "Nixon tapes," even after the editors from the special federal commission erased the more "delicate" parts and unprintable abuse, to this day the tapes remain a model of perfidy and treachery against people with whom the main Watergate "hero" had dealings.

Against this backdrop, the secret tape recorder in Wich's office may seem like a harmless toy. Such a conclusion, however, would be a clear mistake. The USIA is waging an unbridled psychological war against the forces of peace and socialism. As a crucial Washington department, it heads the crusade against that section of mankind that disagrees with the White House's militarist and adventurist policy. The fact that C. Wick uses espionage methods is just the latest evidence of the deep affinity between the USIA and the CIA's special services.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OFFICIAL MEETS WITH DODD

LD171156 Moscow TASS in English 1140 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 17 TASS -- A meeting between the Chairman of the Presidium of the USSR Chamber of Commerce and Industry Yevgeniy Pitovranov and President of the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and Industry E. Dodd has been held here. Questions of cooperation between representatives of U.S. business circles and Soviet organizations were discussed. The sides emphasized their interest in broadening mutually advantageous contacts.

'SIX BASIC POINTS' OF U.S. PACIFIC POLICY VIEWED

LD182004 Moscow World Service in English 1531 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] In [the following] commentary Vladimir Tsvetov analyses the six basic points that make up Washington's policy in the Pacific:

American Ambassador in Tokyo Michael Mansfield recently predicted that the next century was going to be the century of the Pacific. That region, he said, determined everything. America's future was there. The Americans had come to stay. United States Defense Secretary Caspar Weinberger has also said that the American realize the importance of both Eastern Asia and the Pacific and they are determined to remain a Pacific power.

These two points of view are very similar, aren't they? The rich human and natural resources of the Pacific countries are well known. Eastern Asia is America's biggest trading partner. It is there that the American investments bring in the most profits. That is why Caspar Weinberger found it necessary to underline the importance of Reagan's visit to Japan and South Korea, saying it showed how interested the United States is in the region. He said he, too, had visited all America's Asian allies. And so it is becoming more and more evident what Washington's aims are in the Pacific: First of all, it is determined to remain a power in that area. Secondly, it is going to strengthen its military alliance with Japan. And thirdly, it plans to solidify its military alliance with South Korea.

Michael Mansfield explained what the United States meant by its military alliance with these countries. In an interview with U.S. NEWS & WORLD REPORT, the ambassador said that the United States was in Eastern Asia not only -- and even not so much -- to protect Japan and South Korea. If there were no American bases in these countries, he said, where would the United States position its troops and how many billions of dollars would it lose? The ambassador was obviously referring to the more than a billion dollars which Japan spends annually to maintain the American military bases. Mansfield went on to say that the area the 7th Pacific Fleet is responsible for, as he put it, included 70 percent of the world's oceans and 50 percent of its land. He added that the Americans would like to see Japan do more for its own defense.

The Japanese Government, far from opposing America's wishes, increases its military spending by six or seven percent every year, though it has a deficit of 100 trillion yen. Tokyo is prepared to send its navy 1,000 miles from Japanese shores in spite of the fact that in the Constitution there is a law which prohibits such action.

Now, what does Washington gain by this? Well, as a result the 7th Fleet is going to be able to concentrate on aggressive acts in the Gulf and the Indian Ocean. The United States has already deployed nuclear weapons and delivery vehicles in South Korea, and this year it will site the F-16 fighter-bombers, able to carry nuclear bombs, on Japanese territory. In this way the so-called zone of vital interest to the Americans is in fact a zone of American nuclear hostages, because if a nuclear attack is launched from one of the Japanese or South Korean bases retaliation will naturally be directed at these bases.

The fourth, fifth, and sixth reasons for the American presence in the Pacific are to establish contacts with China, expand relations with the member countries of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations -- that is, ASEAN -- and strengthen ties with the members of the Australia-New Zealand-United States alliance, ANZUS.

In December, at the National Press Club in Washington, Caspar Weinberger said that the United States wanted to help modernize China, including its defenses, and determine the level of military and technical cooperation with it. Henry Kissinger, the former American secretary of state, has said that ASEAN and ANZUS are going to be required to take the main responsibility for their own defense, since the United States will be busy taking care of the general world situation.

Let's try to decode these words of Kissinger's: How does Washington look upon these future contacts and its relations with these countries? The signs are that Washington would like to see the same military and political relations that it has with Japan and South Korea. According to the Japanese journal ASIA PACIFIC COMMUNITY [as heard], the Reagan administration has paid less attention to Asia and the Pacific than to the other areas of the world, and as a result the international relations in Asia and the Pacific have been spared the damage inflicted on relations, for example, in Latin America. Indeed, the Americans have not yet staged a Grenada in the Pacific, but, judging by their plans to turn the Pacific into an American domain, there is definitely a danger that this region will soon have its Grenada.

JAPAN OFFICIAL'S 'PROVOCATIVE' ISLANDS TRIP HIT

LD182201 Moscow TASS in English 2132 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Tokyo January 18 TASS -- Chief of the Japanese prime minister's office Ichiro Nakanishi made a provocative trip to the north of Hokkaido to "inspect" the "northern territories", as certain forces in Japan call the islands of the southern part of the Kurils, belonging to the Soviet Union. At a press conference after the trip the Japanese minister repeated Tokyo's totally groundless territorial claims to the Soviet islands, divulging the ruling Liberal-Democratic Party's plans to appropriate an extra 10 billion yen over a period of five years for organizing revanchist campaigns and fuelling hostile feelings toward the USSR.

It is not the first time that high-ranking government officials come for this sort of "inspections" near Soviet borders. Such provocative trips pursue quite a definite objective -- that of whipping up a campaign of spurious territorial claims to the USSR and encouraging the revanchists and militarists. According to Japanese press reports Prime Minister Yasuhiro Nakasone also plans to make a similar "inspection trip". All this betrays the authorities' dangerous intentions to elevate claims to others' lands to the rank of state policy. By inventing myths about the "Soviet threat," Tokyo also attempts to divert the people's attention from the government's increasingly active steps to beef up the Japanese military potential and to draw Japan into the Reagan administration's aggressive strategy.

NODONG SINMUN LASHES 'BELLICOSE' U.S. KOREA ROLE

PM181528 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 18 Jan 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report under general heading: "Where Does the Danger Originate"]

[Text] Pyongyang, 17 Jan -- The bellicose policy of U.S. imperialism is threatening the peace and security of Asian peoples and is exacerbating the world situation as a whole, the newspaper NODONG SINMUN writes.

Washington is doing everything possible to perpetuate Korea's division for the sake of implementing its expansionist desires in the vast Asian region.

The striving for domination here is part of the aggressive U.S. course in the international arena. The White House has allocated an important position to South Korea in these plans. South Korea has been essentially transformed into a major military base and into a bridgehead for aggression against the DPRK and for struggle against freedom-loving peoples and the national liberation movement.

The Pentagon, the organ of the Workers Party of Korea Central Committee points out, is building up armed forces and weapons in the south of the Korean peninsula and is maintaining a 40,000-strong expeditionary corps there. A special danger is posed by the U.S. military's plans to site Pershing II medium-range missiles and cruise missiles in South Korea. The "Team Spirit" U.S.-South Korean military maneuvers are being held regularly and become increasingly larger each year. Provocations against the DPRK are constantly organized in the Demilitarized Zone area and anticommunist hysteria is fanned among the South Korean population.

PDPA HITS PCI FOR 'HOSTILE' L'UNITA ARTICLES

LD171832 Moscow TASS International Service in Russian 1410 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Kabul, 17 Jan (TASS) -- BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has issued the text of an open letter from the PDPA [People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan] Central Committee to the Italian Communist Party [PCI] Central Committee. It says:

At the end of December 1983 and beginning of January 1984 L'UNITA, organ of the PCI, published a series of articles on Afghanistan which could not fail to arouse our indignation and anger. These feelings are all the stronger because the anti-Afghan articles, openly hostile to our revolution and the cause of the PDPA, appeared specifically in the central organ of the PCI Central Committee, a party which has rich experience in the struggle for the interests of the working people and which -- as is known -- has contributed considerably to the world revolutionary process.

We particularly regret that the tone of this campaign of hostility toward revolutionary Afghanistan was set by Antonio Rubbi, head of the foreign section of the PCI Central Committee's international department and a man who by virtue of his position should have viewed what is taking place in our country and the events around it from principled positions of proletarian internationalism, which regards the interests of the working people and social progress as of paramount importance.

However, as is evident, the PCI's central organization adopts a contrary position. Moreover, it is perfectly clear to us that L'UNITA did not want to begin to understand the aims, tasks and nature of our revolution or our stubborn and difficult struggle against age-old backwardness, for the best and bright life of the Afghan people.

It is also regrettable that the articles evaluate the international aspects of the situation around Afghanistan in a way which, basically, is in line with the positions of Western imperialist circles and of the region's reaction and which distorts the true sense of the DRA's foreign policy and of the noble internationalist support by the Soviet Union for our efforts in the struggle for freedom and national independence.

Reading the article in L'UNITA we involuntarily ask ourselves the questions: Do Italian Communists know the truth about our country and our party, about its sacrifices and its changes in the name of progress and social justice? Do they have objective information about how mass interference by imperialism in DRA internal affairs began in various forms after the April Revolution, which was greeted with enthusiasm by the Afghan people?

Do they know what huge sums the CIA and other Western special services, the Chinese hegemonists and the black reaction of the region are spending to organize plots, subversive acts, sabotage and terror against our revolution?

It is evident from the arguments in L'UNITA that certain PCI leaders doubt that the April Revolution in Afghanistan enjoys the support of the broad popular masses.

On behalf of our party, numbering over 100,000 members, we want to resolutely state the following:

The nationalist-democratic revolution in Afghanistan, victorious in April 1978, was the logical consequence of the socioeconomic development of Afghan society. The PDPA was its leader and inspirer. After overthrowing the rotten feudal-landowning regime, our people had the opportunity for the first time in the history of our country to achieve progress in all spheres of life.

The people of Afghanistan are currently going through an unprecedentedly complex period. Our party has proclaimed and is implementing radical transformations in the interests of the country's working population -- just land and water reform and reform in the area of education -- and is waging a campaign against illiteracy while hoping to improve the living conditions of office and industrial workers. We have created and are continuing to perfect a new political structure for society and we are involving people in the affairs of running the state. Work is being done on the creation of a democratic system for local organs of authority. Great efforts are being brought to bear to restore and develop the country's economy which has been destroyed by the undeclared war. All PDPA members and millions of Afghan patriots are working selflessly on resolving all these tasks.

For them the revolution and its gains are not empty words but fully tangible reality. Of course, we would have progressed more rapidly and the scope of our deed would have been wider if the forward movement of the revolution had not been hindered by aggression unleashed by international imperialism headed by the United States and regional reaction; the fight against this aggression is taking up enormous material and human resources, depriving us of valuable time, so essential for creative labor.

As happens in every revolution, the overthrown exploiters have tried to regain their former positions and privileges, but the courageous, proud, freedom-loving people of Afghanistan have stood up resolutely in defense of their revolution.

International imperialism and reaction also saw a threat to their selfish interests in our revolution. They put themselves at the service of fugitive feudalists, compradors, the reactionary section of the clergy and of the officer class. Very soon this anti-Afghan alliance began to carry out its sinister plans. Under the false and fabricated slogan of the "defense of Islam", armed provocations against revolutionary Afghanistan began to expand. They soon acquired the nature of a wide-scale undeclared war against the DRA from the territory of the neighboring states of Pakistan and Iran.

In conditions of an intensifying export of counterrevolution Afghanistan found itself faced with a real threat, not only of losing its revolutionary gains but also of losing its freedom and national independence. Our homeland and revolution (?was faced with) the choice: Either hand over the country to being ground down [rasteraniye] and enslaved by imperialist plunderers and regional reaction, or be guided by the recognized norms of international law, to turn to its friends for help to repel the external aggression.

Taking as our point of departure the higher interests of the Afghan working people we chose the latter, and we believe that we acted completely correctly. On the basis of Article 4 of the Treaty of Friendship, Good-neighborliness and Cooperation of 5 December 1978 and in accordance with Article 51 of the UN Charter, the great Soviet Union extended the hand of aid to us. The position on these questions has been set out repeatedly by the leaders of our party and state, and to any unprejudiced person it cannot fail to appear convincing.

In the actions of our good neighbor the USSR- there is absolutely nothing in common with what is described on the pages of L'UNITA and in the speeches of certain PCI leaders as "the export of revolution". We repeat again: The Afghan revolution is the will and the deed of the Afghan people and of them alone. As for the Soviet Union, being true to the principle of internationalism, it helped us defend our independence and sovereignty from external encroachments and to stand our ground against the imperialist export of counter-revolution. The truth of history consists of this, and we are sorry that certain representatives of the PCI leadership do not understand it or do not wish to understand it.

As for the DRA Government's attitude in questions of settlement of the situation around Afghanistan, it was clearly set out in the well-known statements by our government of 14 May 1980 and 24 August 1981. We favor the cessation of interference in DRA affairs -- primarily armed interference from the territory of Pakistan and Iran -- and that non-resumption of such intereference should be reliably guaranteed. This will permit solution, along with other problems, of the question of withdrawing the contingent of Soviet troops from Afghanistan by agreement between the DRA and the USSR.

We should like also to speak about another thing which is typical of the series of articles about Afghanistan in L'UNITA. The paper quotes utterances and "assessments" by Afghan emigres and Western bourgeois sources. For example, L'UNITA cites the fabrications of the notorious "Amnesty International", or those of (Rasul Zalemi), head of a certain "Afghanistan Information Center" based in Rome.

Is he not one of the Zalemis, offshoots of the family of the former king of Afghanistan, hated by the Afghan people, who is known to be also in Italy? It seems that he is. It is difficult for us to understand how such a paper as L'UNITA can refer to such sources.

We understand that it is not always easy to get to know the particulars of such a complex question, and one which is further confused by imperialist propaganda as is the situation around Afghanistan. But we are convinced that historical truth will win and that all the attempts of counterrevolution are in vain. It is impossible to conquer a people which has risen up to struggle for its legitimate right to freedom and a happy life.

The PDPA -- vanguard of the people, headed by Comrade Babrak Karmal, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee -- is conducting a just struggle for the construction of a new society, and the implementation of socioeconomic transformations directed toward improvement of the material and spiritual life of the Afghan people. Time is working on a new, revolutionary Afghanistan.

KARMAL ADDRESSES PDPA MEETING ON LOCAL BODIES

LD180938 Moscow TASS in English 0925 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Kabul January 18 TASS -- A consultative meeting of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan has been held here. It discussed the draft law on local bodies of government and administration, the BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY reports. Speaking at the meeting, the general secretary of the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan, chairman of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan Babrak Karmal pointed out the political importance of this document and stressed that it would ensure broad participation of popular masses in the management of the country. The Afghan leader said that the law would be put into practice with due account for the phychology of the masses, for national customs and traditions. B. Karmal said that an extraordinary session of the Revolutionary Council of Afghanistan would be convened to endorse the draft law.

PDPA CALLS AUSTRIA SOCIALIST DRA VIEWS 'INSULT'

LD182042 Moscow TASS in English 2001 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Kabul January 18 TASS -- BAKHTAR NEWS AGENCY has transmitted the text of the open letter sent by the Central Committee of the People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan to the Socialist Party of Austria.

The letter draws attention to the fact, in particular, that Peter Jankowitsch, one of the leaders of the Socialist Party of Austria, addressing a meeting in Vienna recently, announced this party's plans to set up a "solidarity committee with Afghanistan" aimed at supporting the so-called "resistance forces of that country." "Our national democratic revolution, in its brisk process of consolidation and blossoming, has opened new and valuable vistas of victories and success in an irreversible manner. This fact is bitter and intolerable for the forces embattled against the hope and life, against the real freedom and happiness of the peoples."

In a bid to delude the peoples, the letter points out, imperialism and reaction have resorted to trickery and machinations with regard to the revolutionary transformation taking place in Afghanistan, especially the fraternal and lawful assistance of the Soviet Union to the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan.

The intervention in the internal affairs of Afghanistan, the arming, military training and exporting of mercenary counter-revolutionary bandits for committing murders and acts of sabotage in the country by U.S. imperialism, its allies and henchment have been institutionalised by the countries which, through their arms deliveries to the counter-revolutionaries, facilitate the escalation of the undeclared war against Afghanistan.

Under these conditions, when the machinations aimed at undermining Afghanistan's independence and territorial integrity are continuing, the letter says, "repeating the myth of the 'occupation of Afghanistan' is nothing but an unforgiveable insult to our free-born people and country and an insult to the traditional, unstinted and tested friendship between the peoples of Afghanistan and the USSR. The DRA has time and again declared in unequivocal terms that in the case of the termination of the factors necessitating the invitation of the limited contingents of Soviet troops on the basis of the U.N. Charter and the treaty of friendship, cooperation and good-neighborliness of the two countries, the termination of the foreign aggression and intervention, and the international guarantees for their non-recurrence, the limited troops of the USSR would return to their peaceful country. Neither Washington, nor Islamabad, nor Tehran have displayed sincerity and goodwill in this regard, but, on the contrary, they have escalated aggression and intervention in the DRA's affairs with a view to maintaining tension in the region."

"The interests of the people of Afghanistan," the letter says, "are different from those of the exploiters and evil doers who, having lost all their privileges as a result of the revolution, have taken refuge with reaction and international imperialism, and kill our children, women and old folk with the weapons provided by the enemies of our people and country, destroy the schools, mosques, hospitals, roads and bridges and plunder the public and private properties."

In conclusion, the authors of the letter denounce "support for the sold-out counter-revolution, may it be under any name and pretence."

INDIA MEETING SCORES U.S. INDIAN OCEAN 'THREAT'

LD180031 Moscow TASS in English 1916 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi January 17 TASS -- TASS correspondent Aleksandr Bokhonko reports:

"To the Indian Ocean -- a zone of peace!" "Down with U.S. military bases!" and "Remove the threat of a nuclear war!" were the slogans under which a mass meeting has been held here on the initiative of a public organization, the Committee on the Indian Ocean. The meeting was attended by members of the government, prominent public figures, scientists, workers and students. Speakers at the meeting strongly condemned U.S. militarist preparations in the region.

Ziaur Rahman Ansari, Minister of State for Shipping and Transport, pointed out that the question of making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace acquires particular topicality in the conditions of the aggravated international situation. A dangerous seat of tension which threatens universal peace has taken shape in the area of the Indian Ocean where almost a quarter of the world's population live. The minister emphasized that responsibility for that is borne by the United States which builds up its military presence in the region, expands the network of military bases, and forms the interventionist "rapid deployment force." Washington overtly pursues a course towards converting the Indian Ocean into the Pentagon's nuclear firing range, Z.R. Ansari stated. K.P. Mishra, professor Jawaharlal Nehru University, accused the United States of constantly frustrating any efforts of the littoral states to secure the implementation of the declaration on announcing the Indian Ocean a zone of peace. The speaker welcomed the proposal of the Warsaw Treaty member-states to start talks on limiting naval activity, on limiting and reducing naval arms, and on spreading confidence-building measures over to the areas of seas and oceans.

The participants in the meeting adopted a resolution emphasizing that the escalation of U.S. military presence in the Indian Ocean and the Washington administration's plans to deploy "Pershing" and cruise missiles in the region pose a threat to the security of the peoples of Asia and enhance the danger of outbreak of a world conflict. They demanded immediate elimination of U.S. military bases in the area and called for stepping up struggle for making the Indian Ocean a zone of peace and for removing the threat of a nuclear war.

INDIA'S BLITZ KNOCKS AFGHAN 'RABBLE' IN PAKISTAN

LD180006 Moscow TASS in English 1748 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] New Delhi January 17 TASS -- Chieftains of Afghan counter-revolution, who have found shelter on Pakistani territory, are capitalizing on criminal machinations and openly oppressing the local population with connivance of the Islamabad regime. According to the Indian weekly BLITZ, they seize land, speculate in houses, control trading and transport in several regions and are actively engaged in the illegal production and smuggling of drugs. The Afghan rabble, which the West is seeking to portray as "fighters for faith", feel at home on Pakistani territory and recognize only one "freedom" -- that of open plunder, the weekly points out. The bandits, armed with American weapons, were used by the Pakistani secret police in reprisals against anti-government demonstrators during recent disturbances in Sind Province. The weekly points out that the criminal activity of the Afghan counter-revolutionary rabble in Pakistan infuriates the local population. Despite strict censorship, reports about clashes between Afghan counter-revolutionary gangs and Pakistani citizens repeatedly filter into the Pakistani press.

LE DUC BINH LEADS CPV DELEGATION IN USSR VISIT

PM171254 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[TASS report: "Exchange of Experience"]

[Text] A delegation of Communist Party of Vietnam [CPV] party workers headed by Le Duc Binh, member of the CPV Central Committee and deputy chief of the CPV Central Committee Organizational Party Work Section, was in the Soviet Union 6 through 16 January under the plan for CPSU-CPV interparty ties.

The Vietnamese comrades familiarized themselves with the CPSU's experience of work in selecting, placing, and educating cadres. The delegation had meetings and talks in CPSU Central Committee sections, the Astrakhan party obkom, the CPSU Central Committee Academy of Social Sciences, Moscow Higher Party School, and other educational establishments, and visited a number of ministries and departments.

CHINESE 'ARMED PROVOCATIONS' AGAINST SRV CHARGED

PM181020 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 18 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

[TASS report: "Provocations on Border"]

[Text] Hanoi January 17 TASS -- The Vietnam News Agency has reported armed provocations staged by China on the border with Vietnam. The report says that since 2 January, groups of Chinese soldiers have crossed the border numerous times and invaded the North Vietnamese provinces of Lang Son, Ha Tuyan, Cao Bang, Quang Ninh, and Hoang Lien Son. These provocative actions have caused loss of life on the Vietnamese side and inflicted considerable material damage on the population of the border districts.

ASEAN MEETING SHOWS NEED TO 'COUNTER' U.S. VIEWS

PM181547 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 16 Jan 84 First Edition p 5

["Our Commentary" by Vsevolod Kalinin: "Steps by the 'Six'"]

[Text] Bangkok -- A routine meeting of the ASEAN countries' foreign ministers has been held in Jakarta, the capital of Indonesia. The formal pretext for the meeting was the official acceptance of the state of Brunei into ASEAN. Thus, the ASEAN "five" created in 1967 -- comprising Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and the Philippines -- is now "six."

An important point on the meeting's agenda was the discussion of a report by the association's working committee on the creation of a zone of peace and neutrality in Southeast Asia. As Indonesian Foreign Minister Mochtar Kusumaatmaja, ASEAN standing committee chairman, noted at a press conference, representatives of the "six" agreed to step up their actions to turn Southeast Asia into a zone of peace and neutrality as a result of the increased international tension.

The complex situation which has developed in the region can be explained largely by the expansionist U.S. policy.

The "crusade" against communism declared by Washington is making itself felt in Southeast Asia too. In recent years, the United States has considerably increased its military presence in the Indian and Pacific Oceans. The buildup of the Pentagon's military forces in that region, as the progressive public of the Southeast Asian countries notes, is the main obstacle to creation of a zone of peace there. What is more, the White House exerts constant political, economic, military, and propaganda pressure on ASEAN to try and turn the association into a military bloc. The Thai-Kampuchean border conflict is also being maintained and artifically fanned by every means.

As for the complex problems of normalizing the situation in Indochina, the key to their solution can be found only at the negotiating table. The leaders of Vietnam, Laos, and Kampuchea have stated this repeatedly. The statement by Thai Foreign Minister Sitthi Sawetsila at a press conference on his return from Jakarta has been noted here in this connection. He advocated diplomatic measures to resolve the Thai-Kampuchean border conflict.

The creation of a zone of peace in Southeast Asia is an important and topical question. The Soviet Union has repeatedly declared its invariable support for this noble task. The socialist countries of Indochina also express their readiness to make their own positive contribution to its implementation. The Jakarta meeting reaffirmed the need to counter the policy of confrontation being imposed by the United States with realism and a sober approach.

COMMENTARY ON CSSR-BASED MISSILE UNIT TRAINING

PM182154 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 19 Jan 84 First Edition p 1

[KRASNAYA ZVEZDA special correspondent Colonel G. Kashuba report: "On the Alert!" -- first three paragraphs are newspaper's introduction]

[Text] As was assumed, the appearance on European soil of the U.S. Pershing II and cruise missiles exacerbated the situation on the continent and forced the Soviet Union and the other socialist states to take the necessary countermeasures to ensure their security.

Such measures include the deployment on CSSR territory of operational-tactical missile complexes of enhanced range, which have begun in accordance with an agreement between the Governments of the Soviet Union and Czechoslovakia.

We are publishing a report from KRASNAYA ZVEZDA's special correspondent, who visited a Soviet missile unit stationed on CSSR territory.

The missile men are on a training exercise. Captain Yu. Lezhepekov, the launch installation crew's commander, issued another order and started his stopwatch. In an instant, the members of the crew were at their places. Each one has his own task, each does his own job. The powerful missile involuntarily makes you think of the inevitability and destructiveness of the retaliatory strike against the aggressor. Nothing will save him from retribution if he makes first use of the nuclear weapons against the Soviet Union and its allies.

Everyone looks at the missile. They recall last summer's training launches. At that time, the results were radioed to the missile men within a matter of minutes. The results were that all crews, including the one headed by Capt Lezhepekov, obtained excellent ratings. This means that the launch was accurate and bettered the set standards.

This rating was the result of the missile men's high skill. Capt Lezhepekov has a "master" qualification; Warrant Officer N. Pushkarev is a specialist, first class. Most of the officers and warrant officers are masters and specialists of improved qualification. Among the drafted soldiers and sergeants are also a large number of true masters of their trade. All the troops take an active part in the competition held under the slogan "To be on the alert, in constant readiness to defend the achievements of socialism!" Their aim is to achieve the title of excellent unit during the current training year.

Regular combat training exercises and political traning classes began for the missile men from the first days of their stay on the territory of friendly Czechoslovakia. The training scheules are undeviatingly carried out in each subunit. Training goes on day and night. The patriotic movement "To act at night with daytime standards!" is gathering momentum.

I also visited exercises and classes of other crews. Everywhere I went I saw high combat morale and felt the great patriotic upsurge.

"The entire personnel," stated Lieutenant M. Pavlyukov, the battery's deputy commander for political affairs, "believes that a great trust has been placed in us, and they well understand the lofty aims for which we are performing our military service here."

Private T. Esenov expressed the thoughts and feelings of his comrades well:

"Let the imperialists entertain no hopes," he said, "of achieving military superiority over our country or over our friends. We'll be able to stick up for ourselves...and for ourselves means for our entire socialist community."

Pvt Esenov's opinion was ardently supported by his friends, Sergeant A. Medvedev and Private V. Layenko. I happened to talk with many other of the unit's officers, warrant officers, sergeants, and soldiers. The common denominator in their comments was this: We cannot allow the American Administration to use nuclear blackmail to implement a policy of force against us. We do not seek military superiority. As is known, the measures being undertaken are aimed at the maintenance of the nuclear equilibrium between the Warsaw Pact and NATO in Europe.

The missile men speak with a feeling of gratitude about the Czechoslovak friends who have helped them settle into their new location.

Life follows a strict army rhythm. The orderlies' commands ring out in accordance with the daily routine; in everything there is the feeling of organization.

"Firm discipline, tightness [sobrannost], "emphasizes Battery Commander Major S. Nyuklov, "these are yet another indication of our readiness to carry out the tasks entrusted to us."

Evening approaches. On go the lights of the agitation and propaganda center that has been set up in the library premises in connection with the preparations for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections. Here we met with Senior Lieutenant M. Rybakov. He had called to pick up some literature on the elections. He is preparing for a talk with the personnel. For the young communist Rybakov, who just the other day was accepted as a candidate member of the CPSU, this is the party's first assignment.

The solid fusion of a high degree of technical equipment, military skill, and invincible morale -- such is the combat potential of the Soviet Armed Forces today which has been created thanks to the concern of the CPSU and the Soviet Government. This fusion is the guarantee that we will not be caught unawares by any development of events, including any events connected with the siting of new American nuclear missiles in Europe. The missile men -- like all Soviet soldiers -- are ready to perform their patriotic and international duty.

RYZHKOV SPEECH TO AUSTRIAN CP CONGRESS REPORTED

LD171141 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 15 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[Dispatch by unnamed PRAVDA and TASS correspondents: "25th Congress of the Communist Party of Austria: Speech by N.I. Ryzhkov"]

[Text] Vienna, 14 Jan -- The 25th Congress of the Communist Party of Austria [KPOe] continues its work at Vienna's Kongresshaus. CPSU delegation head N.I. Ryzhkov, secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, addressed the congress delegates and guests today. His speech was heard with enormous attention. The CPSU delegation head said:

Allow me to convey to you, delegates to the 25th KPOe Congress, fraternal greetings from the CPSU Central Committee and all Soviet Communists.

Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, has asked me to convey cordial greetings and best wishes for success in the congress' work and all KPOe activity.

Our delegation heard with interest the profound and meaningful report of the KPOe Central Committee delivered by KPOe Chairman Comrade Franz Muhri. We thank him for the warm words spoken about the CPSU and the Soviet people.

The communists and all Soviet people are laboring purposefully to implement the communist building tasks set by the 26th CPSU Congress and the 11th 5-Year Plan.

The end of 1983 was marked by two important events. The USSR Supreme Soviet held its ninth session, preceded by a CPSU Central Committee plenum on the eve of the session. They concentrated the attention on urban and rural working people on the most important questions on which Soviet society's progress along the road of consolidating and comprehensively improving developed socialism depends.

The tasks of peaceful building and of improving the Soviet people's living conditions determine the nature of our plans.

Under the conditions of the acute exacerbation of the international situation through the fault of the United States and its NATO allies, the Soviet Union and the socialist community countries are obliged to exercise high vigilance and comprehensively strengthen their defense. They will never allow anyone to acquire military superiority over them, which is what Washington politicians are seeking in order to dictate their will on the world's peoples.

Having embarked on the siting of the new Pershing II nuclear missiles and cruise missiles -- which are first-strike weapons -- in the FRG and a number of other West European countries, the U.S. Administration has started yet another exceptionally dangerous round of the nuclear arms race. A greater threat to peace and security has been posed not only for the European peoples but for peoples all over the world.

Under such conditions the Soviet Union and the other socialist countries have been forced to take serious countermeasures to ensure their security. These measures pursue one goal only: to neutralize the newly emerged threat posed by the U.S. missiles sited in West Europe and to provide a firm guarantee for the Soviet Union, the socialist community countries, and all peoples in Europe against possible attempts at nuclear blackmail and further reckless actions by the U.S. Administration.

There is another, far from unimportant aspect to the missile question. The siting of U.S. missiles in a number of West European countries is severely damaging to the system of established international ties and the Soviet Union's relations with the states which have agreed to the deployment of these weapons. This must be understood by the governments involved, which have gone against the true national interests of their peoples, contrary to their will and to the benefit of the U.S. Administration's aggressive schemes.

The Republic of Austria is in a relatively favorably position thanks to its status of neutrality and its State Treaty. Now it is even more clearly evident that the conclusion of this treaty in 1955 was a truly beneficial act for your country. Its territory houses no military bases belonging to other powers, nor is it overflown by foreign military aircraft with deadly cargoes of atomic bombs.

Multifaceted Soviet-Austrian ties, including trade, are developing positively and to mutual benefit. Suffice it, for example to mention the fact that this year Austrian consumers will receive additional quantities of natural gas from Urengoy in distant Siberia through the export gas pipeline which has been constructed ahead of schedule despite the sanctions applied by the U.S. Administration.

While on the subject, I would like to mention that our countries are constantly working to further develop mutually advantageous economic relations, including in the shipbuilding sphere, where we are talking about the construction of new vessels at the Korneuburg shipyard, which is well known in our country. In general, ties between the USSR and Austria are developing successfully and, in our view, there are good prospects for the future. The Austrian Communists deserve considerable credit for this.

We cannot, however, fail to see that the dangerous development of the world situation inevitably affects Austria's interests. We must look the truth straight in the eyes: Austria's population would also be endangered in the event of a nuclear conflict on the European Continent. You see, U.S. nuclear missiles are sited in the immediate vicinity -- on FRG territory.

We share and understand the feelings of the many Austrians protesting against West Europe's transformation into a launching pad for U.S. missiles through their antiwar demonstrations. We know that Austria's Communists, proceeding from their country's true national interests, are active participants in the antiwar movement.

As for the USSR and the entire community of socialist states, they will continue, as before, to do everything incumbent on them to curb the arms race and preserve and consolidate peace. If the United States and the other NATO countries show readiness to return to the situation prevailing prior to the start of the siting of the U.S. medium-range missiles in Europe, the road for seeking a constructive solution will be opened. The Soviet Union is always prepared for honest talks taking both sides' interests into account.

The role of the cohesion of the international communist movement, a mighty factor in the struggle against the threat of a new war, and the significance of the international solidarity between fraternal parties are increasing particularly in today's dangerous situation. It is gratifying that the KPOE is a firm link in this movement and that the Austrian Communists bear aloft the banner of proletarian internationalism.

Communists in the Soviet Union wholeheartedly wish the KPOE successes in its struggle against the military threat and in defense of the social and political rights of the working class and all Austrian working people, and also wish it the consolidation of the party's ranks and expansion of its influence among the masses!

In conclusion N.I. Ryzhkov saluted the KPOe, the friendship between peoples of the two countries, and peace on earth. The head of the CPSU delegation conveyed greetings from the CPSU Central Committee to the congress presidium and presented a commemorative gift -- a vase depicting the Kremlin.

On behalf of the delegates, the congress presidium asked the CPSU delegation to convey to Comrade Yu.V. Andropov heartfelt thanks for the greetings and wishes for success.

The 25th KPOe Congress continues its work.

SPANISH PARLIAMENTARIANS ARRIVE IN MOSCOW 15 JAN

LD160036 Moscow TASS in English 2149 GMT 15 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow January 15 TASS -- A delegation of the Foreign Affairs Commission of the Congress of Deputies of the Cortes of Spain led by Miguel Angel Martinez, first deputy chairman of the commission, have arrived in Moscow at the invitation of the Foreign Affairs Commissions of the two chambers of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

Today the delegation paid a visit to the USSR Supreme Soviet, welcoming the visitors, Aleksey Shitikov, chairman of the Soviet of the Union of the USSR Supreme Soviet, expressed the hope that the parliamentarians' visit would mark a tangible step on the road of the development of Soviet-Spanish relations and help to improve mutual understanding and trust between the peoples of both countries.

We have arrived in the USSR to exchange opinion with the Soviet parliamentarians on the outstanding problems of our time, to clarify each other's positions, to discuss inter-parliamentary contacts and also relations between Spain and the Soviet Union in such fields as culture and trade, Miguel Angel Martinez said. We should think what parliamentarians can do for the development of these relations.

PONOMAREV REFUTES USSR LINK TO SPANISH TERRORISM

LD180023 Madrid Domestic Service in Spanish 1800 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] The Soviet Union condemns terrorist actions in Spain, according to Central Committee Secretary and Candidate Politburo Member Boris Ponomarev when he spoke to a Spanish parliamentary delegation which today concludes the first part of its 7-day official visit to Moscow. Ponomarev also expressed his country's repeated indignation at rumors that the USSR is somehow linked with such terrorist activites.

FRG COMMITTEE HITS BONN STANCE ON U.S. MISSILES

LD172357 Moscow TASS in English 1744 GMT 17 Jan 84

[Text] Bonn January 17 TASS -- The West German Committee for Peace, Cooperation and Disarmament has declared for an immediate end to the deployment of new American medium-range nuclear missiles in the FRG and a number of other West European countries, for the withdrawal of the missiles that have already been deployed there.

Welcoming the opening of the Stockholm Conference on Confidence-Building Measures and Security and Disarmament in Europe the committee notes in its statement published in Cologne today that the course of the arms race, pursued by the United States Administration and supported by the Bonn government, seriously complicates its work and the attainment of good results.

The deployment of American first-strike nuclear-missile weapons in a number of West European countries, the strategic concept of the combined use in Europe of nuclear, chemical and conventional arms contradict the statements by the United States and other NATO countries about their "intention" to engage in serious discussions of confidence-building measures and disarmament, the document says.

RODIONOV-LED DELEGATION VISITS STOCKHOLM

PM171255 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 17 Jan 84 First Edition p 4

[Text] Stockholm, 16 Jan -- A delegation of CPSU Party workers headed by P.A. Rodionov, first deputy director of the CPSU Central Committee Institute of Marxism-Leninism, was here 10 through 15 January at the invitation of the board of the Left Party -- Communists (VPK) of Sweden.

During the visit the delegation met with the leadership of the party and the parliamentary faction of the VPK, and with the aktiv of a number of district party organizations. Talks were held in the municipalities of Stockholm and Goteborg.

The CPSU and VPK representatives came out in favor of further developing interparty ties.

ANTONOV RETURN TO PRISON CONDEMNED AS 'INJUSTICE'

LD162221 Moscow TASS in English 2126 GMT 16 Jan 84

[Text] Rome January 16 TASS -- Lawyers for Bulgarian citizen S. Antonov appealed to the court of cessation against a court decision revoking an order that had allowed him to stay out of prison and be placed under house arrest. The lawyers declared that such actions are groundless. They stressed that the defendant had become a victim of cruel injustice.

As is known, employee of the Bulgarian airlines in Italy S. Antonov was arrested and put in prison on charges of complicity in the attempt on the life of the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul the Second in May 1981, the charges fabricated at the bid of the Western special services. Turkish terrorist Agca who had fired at the pope acted as the main witness for the prosecution in the case on the attempt on the pope's life. The investigation bodies however revealed the groundlessness of the terrorist's accusations and fully refuted his testimonies.

It is not accidental that the judiciary instances faced Agca with an accusation of having committed perjury.

The Italian press pointed out many times that the Turkish terrorist from the "Gray Wolves" fascist organisation was influenced by the Italian secret services which acted on the bid of the Central Intelligence Agency of the United States. Thus the weekly L'ESPRESSO wrote that Agca serving a life sentence in the "Rebibbia" prison in Ascoli Piceno was visited by representatives of the Italian secret services more than once. They promised to him that they will achieve a considerable reducing of his prison term in return for a "service" from him, that of accusing S. Antonov and other Bulgarian citizens of the implication in the attempt on the Pope's life in St. Peter's Square.

SUPREME SOVIET GREETS ALGERIA'S BENDJEDID

PM171000 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 14 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Text] To Comrade Chadli Bendjedid, secretary general of the National Liberation Front Party and president of the Democratic and Popular Republic of Algeria

Please accept our congratulations on your reelection as president of Algeria.

People in the Soviet Union assess highly your contribution to the anti-imperialist policy pursued by Algeria in the international arena.

We are confident that your activity in the post of Algerian president will continue to help strengthen the traditional bonds of friendship, solidarity, and fruitful cooperation between the Soviet Union and Algeria for the sake of our peoples and the strengthening of universal peace and progress.

We wish you and all the friendly Algerian people new successes in steadily pursuing the course of socialist orientation, in strengthening national independence, and in implementing the country's progressive development.

The USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium

USSR OFFICIALS DISCUSS ECONOMIC TIES WITH KUWAIT

GF162048 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 15 Jan 84 p 17

[Part I of report on panel interview with Georgiy Skorov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute in Moscow; Vladimir Kossov, chief of the main computer center at the State Planning Committee; Tadeush Teodorovich, deputy director of the State Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries; (Robert Klikovskiy), director of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade; and Ruben Andreasyan, of the Oriental Studies Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, by unidentified AL-ANBA' correspondent in Moscow -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-ANBA'] Considering their large oil revenues, which are regarded to be the superpowers' object of attraction, the Gulf countries find themselves at the center of the conflict for hegemony of the oil wells. Some observers regard the Soviet presence in Afghanistan as a proof of the Soviet Union's intent to expand its control to the oil wells of the Gulf. What is your view in this regard and what is the Soviet Union's need for Gulf oil?

[Ruben Andreasyan] The oil production output in the Soviet Union, as is known, has not decreased but is rising and this increase is taking place according to the 11th 5-Year Plan. The Soviet Union possesses an adequate amount of oil and minerals. The current 5-year plan particularly specifies the speedy development of natural gas production, and a large pipeline is being constructed to pump the gas and export it to the West European countries.

The facts of the development of the oil and gas production in the Soviet Union were decisive to an extent that the CIA was forced to refute its analyses of the spring of 1981. In conclusion, I would like to state the fact that the Soviet Union does not desire the wealth of others.

Our state establishes its relations with other countries on the principles of democracy, justice, equality, mutual benefit, and noninterference in the internal affairs of others. The Soviet Union develops its economic cooperation with liberated countries, without demanding any compensation to it. It does not demand military bases, benefits, share in profits, or participation in administering the production establishments which were set up with our technical and economic aid. Also, we are not in need of the others' mineral wealth, including oil and gas. Nature was generous to us in providing us with natural energy resources; the Soviet Union is always first in the producers of oil and gas.

Answering a question put by AL-ANBA' on trade cooperation between the Soviet Union, Kuwait and other Gulf states, (Robert Klikovskiy), director of the Middle East department at the Ministry of Foreign Trade said: Trade has always been considered one of the indications of good relations between countries. The development of trade leads to mutual benefits without hindrances and restrictions and provides opportunities to establish comprehensive cooperation among countries regardless of their social structures and economic development, and this subsequently improves political relations among the countries and strengthens peace and friendship among peoples.

The trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Arab countries, including Kuwait, is based on the Leninist principles which are known to all -- total equality in rights, respect of sovereignty by both sides, noninterference in internal affairs, and mutual benefits.

Kuwait was the first Arab country in the Arab Gulf to establish direct relations with the Soviet Union. Despite the fact that the volume of trade between the two countries is still small and is not up to the two countries' potential, these relations affect every aspect of Kuwait's trade and economic relations. They act to counter the economic pressures of the imperialist countries which are trying by all means to maintain their monopoly of the Kuwaiti market.

The trade between the two countries is based on individual deals or contracts between Soviet foreign trade institutions and Kuwaiti companies. The Soviet Union exported and still exports to Kuwait a vast range of goods, like various types of vessels, trucks, diesel engines, electric transformers, cement, metals, timber, gas pipelines, and so on. In the past few years the demand for imported consumer goods by Kuwaiti consumers has increased, especially for musical instruments, carpets, magnifying lenses, photographic equipment, and refrigerators.

As previously stated, the volume of trade between the two countries does not reach the level of the two countries' potential. In this respect, I believe that a trade agreement between them will play a decisive role in deepening the legitimate bases of trade. It will also make it possible to implement on the basis of equality and mutual benefit and on a contact basis the building of factories in the Soviet Union which produce goods desired by Kuwait, like timber, cellulose, and paper. These factories can act to deepen and complete trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait. Such factories will produce commodities to meet the basic specifications as required by importing Kuwaiti companies. In this regard, Kuwaiti companies and departments can finance the building of such factories in the Soviet Union and these factories will pay off their loans with their products on a long-term basis. Mutual benefit from such cooperation and its efficiency are crystal clear. However, implementing these projects in fact requires continued and constructive work by the concerned departments in the two countries.

If cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait in the field of economic aid to other countries by linking Soviet experience of industrial, agricultural, and energy projects and Kuwaiti financing of them takes place, it will be very promising. In other words, there are great opportunities for expanding and deepening trade and economic cooperation between the Soviet Union and Kuwait.

As for trade and economic cooperation with other Arab countries in the Gulf region, it is worth noting that this cooperation is still confined to trade deals with Saudi Arabia and the UAE. In 1927, the first exhibition for Soviet commodities was held in Jidda, and was a success. In 1928, the first direct contact was made to transport passengers and shipments between the Soviet Black Sea ports and Gulf ports and Jidda. A Soviet commercial representative served in Jidda for a long time during which the Soviet Union was exporting sulphur, kerosene, timber, glass, sugar, and other commodities which found a good market in Saudi Arabia. World War II interrupted the trade relations between the two countries which remained confined for a long time to individual deals to import commodities. Soviet-Saudi trade relations have acquired a stable form in the past 8-10 years. In 1975, the trade volume between the two countries reached 5.6 billion rubles and in 1981 rose to 25.5 billion rubles. This figure is expected to exceed 40 million rubles, according to initial reports. Commodities which the Soviet Union exports to Saudi Arabia have expanded. Machinery and equipment for minerals extraction, trucks, buses, and oil drilling machinery are among the exported Soviet commodities. The Soviet Union exports large quantities of cement, timber, cotton textiles, pipes, and foodstuffs. Despite all this and despite the big potential to increase trade between the Soviet Union and Saudi Arabia, and the rise of Soviet exports to Saudi Arabia in the past few years, the Soviet Union's share in Saudi Arabia's foreign trade is still very small, due to the fact that there is no trade agreement between the two countries and there is no representation in Saudi Arabia and the difficulty of holding direct contacts with Saudi companies, of sending representatives for Soviet foreign trade institutions to hold trade negotiations and conclude trade deals and of sending Soviet experts to service Soviet equipment. Trade relations between the Soviet Union and the UAE have developed considerably in the last period. In 1982, Soviet commodities exported to the UAE reached 1.5 million rubles and are expected to triple in the current year. Local companies having business dealings with Soviet institutions have increased and the list of Soviet commodities exported to the UAE have grown. Aeroflot is now making regular flights to Abu Dhabi; there have been contacts between the Soviet chamber of commerce and industry and the chambers of commerce in Abu Dhabi and Dubayy. Negotiations are currently taking place to set up a trade office for the Soviet trade institutions in the UAE, a move which will undoubtedly contribute to the expansion and deepening of trade relations between the two countries.

U.S. Economic Ties Discussed

GF172044 Kuwait AL-ANBA' in Arabic 16 Jan 84 p 19

[Part II of report on panel interview with Georgiy Skorov, deputy director of the United States of America and Canada Institute in Moscow; Vladimir Kossov, chief of the main computer center at the State Planning Committee; Tadeush Teodorovich, deputy director of the State Committee for Economic Relations with Foreign Countries; (Robert Klikovskiy), director of the Middle East Department at the Soviet Ministry of Foreign Trade; and Ruben Andreasyan, of the Oriental Studies Institute of the USSR Academy of Sciences, by unidentified AL-ANBA' correspondent in Moscow -- date not given]

[Excerpts] [AL-ANBA'] Lately, observers have referred to the decrease in tension in economic relations between the Soviet Union and the United States.

How accurate is this assessment?

[(Robert Klikovskiy)] I think the assessment of improvement in trade and economic relations between the United States and the Soviet Union is groundless. It is better to say that such views reflect recent events rather than the core of the matter.

It seems that the reasons for such an optimistic evaluation are events like the signing of the grain agreement between the Soviet Union and the United States in August 1983, the lifting of the embargo on the sale of Caterpillar pipeline extension machinery to the Soviet Union, and the earlier the cancellation of the sanctions imposed on West European companies for fulfilling their commitments, contrary to U.S. demands, to build the Siberian-West European pipeline.

All these incidents which the Soviet-U.S. economic relations witnessed lately do not indicate that the intention of the Reagan administration's to normalize economic relations with Soviet Union, but indicate the result of the disgraceful failure of the policy of favoritism and creation of obstacles which the United States pursued for a long time.

[AL-ANBA'] What is the volume of Soviet oil exports to East European countries? Will these exports continue in the future?

[(Robert Klikovskiy)] The first 3 years of the current 5-year plan, that is 1981-1983, plus the estimated results of this year, show that Soviet exports to socialist countries will reach 264 million tons of oil and oil products, 92 billion cubic meters of gas, and 53 billion kilowatts of power. The Soviet Union will of course continue to export fuel and electric power to the socialist countries in the future.

IRANIAN POLITICS, WAR WITH IRAQ DISCUSSED

PM171033 Moscow NEW TIMES in English No 2, Jan 84 pp 18-21

[V. Komarov article: "Highways and Byways"]

[Text] Reader V. Ergashev of Tashkent, U.S.S.R., asks in a letter to the editors: "What are the specific features of the political situation in Iran? Is the anti-imperialist character of the Iranian revolution compatible with the persecution of patriots who want to see the country's national independence strengthened?"

It will be five years in February since the victory of the popular armed uprising in Iran which overthrew the despotic regime of the shah and expelled from the country tens of thousands of American advisers. The Iranian revolution was one of the most significant events of recent years in international life. It was basically an anti-imperialist revolution, although the internal and external reaction already then sought to alter its character.

In these five years a great many events have taken place in Iran testifying to the uniqueness, complexity and contradictory course of the revolutionary process in that country. At the initial stage the anti-imperialist orientation of the revolution reflecting the striving of the masses to consolidate genuine national independence and to break the stranglehold the imperialist powers, primarily the U.S., had on all spheres of the country's political and socio-economic life was markedly in evidence. It was at that time that Iran left the aggressive CENTO bloc, did away with the U.S. electronic espionage bases on its territory, and joined the Nonaligned Movement.

In the period immediately after the revolution, under pressure from the revolutionary enthusiasm of the working people, the Shi'ite Moslem clergy led by Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni, who came to power on the crest of the broad popular antimonarchist and anti-imperialist movement and still rules the country, promised to carry out reforms objectively in the interests of the dispossessed. They pledged to nationalize the big industrial enterprises and private banks and insurance companies, to transfer the land that previously belonged to the shah to landless peasants, to introduce and guarantee minimum wage for workers, and other reforms. But as they consolidated their control over all the levers of governmental authority, the Shi'ite clergy began to display growing inconsistency in giving effect to their promises, concentrating on establishing their own monopoly of power. The political revolution did not develop into a social revolution. The implementation of such important socioeconomic changes as the land reform, nationalization of foreign trade and the introduction of progressive labour legislation came to a standstill. In the ruling quarters the positions of the right, conservative wing inclined to ally itself with big business and the landed interests grew stronger.

The religious and political leadership of the Islamic Republic of Iran attributes the unresolved social problems, the country's economic difficulties, inflation and the high cost of living, and the decline of the living standards of the mass of the working people to the war with Iraq which has been going on for more than three years now. In August the Iranian Central Bank announced that the cost of the war with Iraq had substantially increased the budget deficit, and admitted that there were "major problems in industry, including shortages of raw materials, a lack of spare parts, and financial, manpower and management problems." It was also pointed out that there was "a lack of any single, comprehensive economic programme." The authorities invoke "wartime conditions" to brush aside opposition criticism of the restrictions imposed on political and social rights and freedoms.

The immediate cause of the outbreak in September 1980 of the armed conflict between Iran and Iraq were territorial disputes left over from colonial times. In 1975, when the shah was still in power, the two countries concluded, with Algerian mediation, an agreement under which the water frontier between them was to run along the deepest part of the Shatt al-Arab River. Iran pledged to return to Iraq some small frontier areas. But in the shah's time these territories were not returned. In September 1980, Iraq denounced the 1975 agreement and its troops entered Iranian territory. At the very beginning Baghdad registered some military gains, but later came up against stiff resistance. The armed conflict assumed a protracted, bloody character. The Iraqi forces were gradually driven back from most of the Iranian territory they had taken, and the fighting is now going on along the previous border. The Iranian troops have also tried to push into Iraqi territory, but have suffered considerable losses and have been forced to halt.

The war has laid a heavy burden on the shoulders of the Iranian and the Iraqi peoples. Not long ago THE LOS ANGELES TIMES, citing U.S. intelligence sources, reported that the losses had run to at least 175,000 dead, 50,000 on the Iraqi side and about 125,000 on the Iranian. Some estimates place the number of wounded on both sides at 600,000. Needless to say, these figures must be viewed with circumspection, but on the whole they would seem to give a general idea of the extent of the losses. According to the same sources, Iraq is holding 7,000-8,000 Iranian prisoners of war, among whom there are 12-year-old adolescents, while Iran has taken 45,000-50,000 Iraqis prisoner. The economic damage caused by the war runs into billions of dollars. "Due to the crucial importance of the war," Prime Minister of Iran recently said, "some 30 per cent of the current year's budget was somehow related to the Iraqi-imposed war. The same percentage has been foreseen for the next year's budget."

The Delhi HINDUSTAN TIMES observed recently that "Iran would end the war tomorrow if it could." But its calls for a ceasefire have been rejected. The paper believes that Iran has decided to wage a war of attrition inasmuch as the numerical strength of its Army is two and half times that of the Iraqi Armed Forces, which, true, have the advantage in tanks and aircraft.

What is the stand taken by the Iranian leadership as regards ending the war? Addressing foreign newsmen in November 1983, Iranian President 'Ali Hoseyni-Khamene'i said that "to obtain peace Iraq must accept Iran's terms." These terms include the resignation of the Iraqi president.

It is perfectly clear that the continuation of the Iranian-Iraqi war benefits only aggressive external forces -- imperialism and Zionism -- which are out to weaken both countries and to destabilize the situation in the Persian Gulf zone. Washington has seized upon this war as an excuse for expanding its military presence in the region. The Soviet Union, on the contrary, stands for a peaceful settlement of the conflict by political means, on a mutually acceptable, fair basis.

The imperialist powers, and primarily the United States, have not given up their intention to restore their old positions in Iran. According to the Arab weekly SABAH AL-KHAYR, special training camps for Iranian counterrevolutionary paramilitary formations have been established and are operating under CIA direction on the territories of some countries adjoining Iran. CIA agents have set up, armed and trained an organization called [Azadeghan] (The Free), and terrorist bands made up of its members are being sent into Iranian territory. At the same time the U.S. special services fan the prejudice and even hostility towards the Soviet Union and other socialist countries which the right, conservative wing of the Iranian religious and political leadership has always harboured. The purpose essentially is to include these groups in Reagan's "crusade" against communism. The main target of the attacks on the Soviet Union's foreign policy is the internationalist assistance it is rendering the people of Afghanistan to help them defend the gains of the April revolution against encroachment by the internal and external counterrevolution. Regarding the Afghan developments as an attempt "to suppress the Islamic revolution," the ruling quarters of Iran have taken a hostile stand towards the Government of the Democratic Republic of Afghanistan and support the Afghan counterrevolutionaries.

The Iranian leaders have proclaimed the slogan "Neither the East nor the West," which is interpreted as signifying that Iran must not allow Soviet influence to take the place of its onetime dependence on the United States. Needless to say, this attempt to equate the imperialist policy of the United States with the peace policy of the Soviet Union is totally unwarranted. It is noteworthy that a tendency toward the expansion of various kinds of ties with the Western powers has latterly increasingly manifested itself in the foreign policy course steered by the Iranian conservative circles.

THE WASHINGTON POST, for instance, reported that the leaders of the seven Western powers at their Williamsburg meeting last summer welcomed the offer made some time before by Iran to improve relations with the West, to expand both trade and political contacts. According to the paper, the Iranian ambassador in Bonn had underscored, in a talk with West German Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, his country's desire to strengthen cooperation in the political, economic and cultural spheres.

The U.S. MIDDLE EAST REPORT says that in the first nine months of 1983 the United States bought from Iran $768 million worth of oil as against $306 million in the same period of the previous year. U.S. exports to Iran increased by 81 per cent, to $145 million (the year before the figure was $80 million). The Western press has also reported deliveries of U.S. arms to Iran through third countries.

The Lebanese AS-SAFIR speaks of "ramified commercial ties" between Tehran and London and of secret Iranian-British talks on the purchase of Jaguar military aircraft.

According to REUTERS, relations between Iran and Japan are developing apace.

The agency reports that Japanese companies are buying Iranian oil in growing quantities, and that Japanese exports to Iran more than doubled in 1983.

These and other facts show that the biggest capitalist countries are seeking not only to preserve their positions on the Iranian market, but also to tie Iran closer to the world capitalist economy and to influence its political orientation.

A direct consequence of the strengthening of the positions of the right-wing conservative clergy in the Iranian ruling quarters is the anti-communist, anti-Soviet campaign mounted in Iran, clearly at the instigation of agents of the imperialist powers. This campaign is accompanied by a massive offensive against the patriotic. Left democratic forces which came out actively in defence of the anti-imperialist aspects of the Iranian revolution.

Early last year arrests were made of leaders and activists of one of the country's oldest political parties, the vanguard of the Iranian working people -- the People's (Tudeh) Party. Last month the trial began in Tehran of several groups of patriotic-minded army officers accused of belonging to a "secret organization" of the Tudeh Party, of "handing over secret information" to the Soviet Union, illegal possession of arms, and the like. The trumped-up charges against the Tudeh Party, which is accused of "plotting" against the Islamic regime, were accompanied by slanderous allegations about Soviet "interference" in the internal affairs of Iran. A noisy propaganda clamour was raised around these accusations. Clearly, the organizers of the legal frame-up were not only out to strike at the Iranian democratic, progressive forces, but also to misrepresent Soviet policy towards Iran.

It is well known that the Tudeh Party, which began to function legally after the overthrow of the shah, proceeded from the fact that only an alliance of all forces standing for the total liberation of the country from foreign dependence and for guarantees of democratic rights and freedoms to all working people can stand up to the pressure exerted by the external and internal counterrevolution. It openly declared its readiness to co-operate with the Shi'ite clergy to repulse imperialism, strengthen national independence and to give effect to the people's aspirations. Its policy had nothing in common with "plotting," "subversion," or "intrigues against the regime."

The Tehran prosecutor has labelled the arrested and imprisoned members and supporters of the Tudeh Party as "terrorists." A more absurd charge is hard to imagine. For the party it was a matter of principle to rely on the masses of working people of both town and country; it rejected terroristic methods. It called on the industrial workers and all other sections of the working people to display revolutionary vigilance, to heighten the level of their political and class consciousness, to strengthen the trade unions, to be ready to defend the revolution. Now it is being smeared and the defendants are being subjected to pressure. But many of them have found the courage to tell the truth, that they never had anything to do with conspiracies against the Islamic Republic.

Futile, too, are the attempts made to use the Tehran frame-up to whip up anti-Soviet sentiment in the country. The truth is that the Soviet Union pursues, and always has pursued, towards its southern neighbour a policy of good-neighbourship and non-interference in its internal affairs, that it seeks to maintain normal relations with it and to develop these relations to the benefit of both countries. It does not seek any special rights or advantages for itself in Iran and has no territorial claims on it. The U.S.S.R. has time and again demonstrated in practice its friendly attitude to the Iranian revolution.

The Soviet people know all this. The importance thing is that the Iranian people, too, should know the truth. Good relations can be built only on equality and, of course, reciprocity.

SOVIET, ISLAMIC VIEWS ON PALESTINE IDENTICAL

LD181930 Moscow in Arabic to the Arab World 1530 GMT 18 Jan 84

[From "Window on the Arab World" by Vladimir Bilyakov]

[Text] The attention of participants in the Casablanca Islamic summit is focused on the Palestinian question. This conclusion is self-evident when one looks at the topics of the summit and the speeches of the participants. There are no other people in the Islamic world like the Palestinian people, whose legitimate rights have been violated for such a long time and in such a flagrant way. It is no exaggeration to say that for some time the Palestinian question has been the symbol of the Islamic states' struggle for their rights. Moreover, a just solution to this question is closely linked to the question of Muslims' freedom of access to holy places in Jerusalem, which Israel had been occupying since 1967.

Speeches by participants in the Casablanca summit and the final draft documents prepared by the Islamic foreign ministers underscore support and backing for the plan endorsed by the Arab states at the Fes Summit for a Peaceful Settlement in the Middle East, including a just solution to the Palestinian problem. However, it is common knowledge that this plan does not provide for an international instrument to realize the principles of settlement it contains. It is also known that the Soviet Union proposed -- before the emergence of the Arab Fes plan which it supports -- the convening of an international conference on the Middle East to be attended by all the concerned parties, including the PLO. This proposal initially received support at the UN Conference on Palestine in Geneva and then at the last session of the UN General Assembly, where the Islamic states also voted in favor of that proposal. In his speech in Casablanca, UN Secretary General Perez de Cuellar dealt with the importance of convening such a conference. Therefore, the stances of the Soviet Union and the Islamic states with regard to their main issue -- the Palestinian question -- are identical.

DFLP'S HAWATIMAH REPORTEDLY VISITS MOSCOW

NC181414 Paris AFP in English 1355 GMT 18 Jan 84

[Text] Moscow, Jan 18 (AFP) -- Nayif Hawatimah, head of the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP), has been in Moscow for several days, Palestinian sources said today. No details of his activities were given, and his arrival here has not been reported by the Soviet authorities.

Mr Hawatimah, who stayed in Moscow for one week last July, belongs to the Palestinian faction which supports the unity of the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), without either backing PLO chairman Yasir 'Arafat or Syrian-backed PLO dissidents.

Meanwhile, Arab diplomatic sources here (?reported) that Walid Junblatt, Druze head of the Lebanese Progressive Socialist Party (PSP-Druze), left here yesterday. He met Boris Ponomarev, responsible for the Central Committee's International Bureau, on January 13.

In recent months the Kremlin has therefore had contacts with Syria, the PSP and various Palestinian factions. Mr 'Arafat was last here in January, 1983.

KARTVELISHVILI ADDRESSES SUPREME SOVIET

PM171455 Tbilisi ZARYA VOSTOKA in Russian 30 Dec 83 p 3

[Speech by Deputy D. Kartvelishvili of Ordzhonikidzevskiy Electoral Okrug, Tbilisi, Georgia, Chairman of the Georgian Council of Ministers, at the 28 December afternoon session of the USSR Supreme Soviet Soviet of the Union]

[Text] Esteemed comrade deputies! The working people of Georgia, warmly supporting the party's Leninist democratic and foreign policy, join the rest of the Soviet people in wholly and fully approving the results of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum. They are fully resolved to unswervingly implementing the conclusions and propositions put forward at the plenum by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and to achieve the additional targets on improving production efficiency and economic performance. In conditions where the international situation has deteriorated, our party and its Leninist Central Committee have once again demonstrated to mankind their peace-loving political course and the steadfast desire of the land of the soviets to ensure consistent economic and social development and to struggle hard to preserve peace and prevent a nuclear catastrophe.

As Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov stressed in his recent statement, human reason alone can protect mankind from the terrible danger -- and it must. These words are suffused with concern for the future of human society and, at the same time, they contain great hope and confidence in the inevitable triumph of the supreme interests of mankind and its potential. In present conditions the significance of our economic and defense might and our deep conviction and readiness to fully defend the supreme interests of the party and socialist soceity undergoes a manifold increase.

The working people of the Georgian SSR are harmoniously improving their economy, social infrastructure and cultural heritage in the united, fraternal family of USSR peoples.

We link our efforts in this sphere to the tasks of ensuring the accelerated growth of the republic's productive forces arising out of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee and USSR Council of Ministers on the Georgian SSR which ordain qualitative improvements in the development of its economy and sociocultural sphere. In the past 10 years Georgia's general economic and industrial potential has nearly doubled. The improvement of production efficiency has become the dominant factor in ensuring economic and social progress.

All this was due to a great deal of day-to-day assistance and support on the part of the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Government and union ministries and departments, and multifaceted organizational work by the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee in mobilizing the republic's working people to the struggle to implement the planned long-term program to ensure accelerated progress in all spheres of economic and cultural building.

The positive trends which have taken shape in the development of the Georgian national economy and social sphere and the tasks facing us in the forthcoming period were exhaustively analyzed and generalized in the latest CPSU Central Committee resolution on the work of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee which was published a few days ago. Basically the resolution is a new, all-embracing program for our future activity.

Thanks to the positive economic and organizational prerequisites which have been created in previous years and despite the extremely adverse conditions for the functioning of a number of key sectors of the republic's national economy and the considerable losses of agricultural products, the attainment of the planned targets for economic and social development in 1983 as a whole is assured.

In these conditions the immense potential and infinite advantages of the country's unified national economic complex found full expression. The CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Council of Ministers, the USSR Gosplan, other union organs and the fraternal republics gave us substantial assistance in overcoming the consequences of natural calamities.

The republic's working people express profound gratitude for the great assistance and support they were given at a difficult time, this being a further confirmation of the life-giving force of Lenin's nationalities policy and the might of our socialist system.

For their part, the republic's party, soviet and economic organs have adopted effective measures to step up the search for and economic use of internal reserves and local resources to provide extra output. This has resulted in the creation of the requisite conditions for the successful completion of the economic year. In the 11-month period the industrial output plan was fulfilled by 102.5 percent and the industrial sales plan by 101.4 percent. Products worth R231 million were produced in excess of the plan. The rate of growth of the overall volume of production was 105.6 percent.

There was a record harvest of quality tea -- 555,000 tons. Procurement of citrus fruits topped 300,000 tons, which is also a supreme achievement. The plan for the sale of grain, fruit, meat, milk, eggs, and other very important arable farming and livestock raising products to the state is being fulfilled.

Construction workers are working better. In the January-November period assimilation of capital investments was up 4 percent and commissioning of fixed capital was up 19 percent over the same 11-month period last year.

Thus, in 1983 the republic has done a great deal to consistently implement the national economic aims of the 11th 5-Year Plan which gives it greater confidence when it comes to embarking on the solution of the difficult tasks of the coming year.

The draft State Plan for the Economic and Social Development of the USSR And draft USSR State Budget for 1984 which are being discussed by the present session are oriented toward the dynamic development of the economy of the country as a whole and of the individual union republics. Bearing this in mind, we support the motions calling for approval and authorization of the country's plan and budget for next year.

At the same time, I would like to talk about certain matters relating to the implementation of the planned program of economic and social development.

What worries us most of all is the establishment of the indicators for the republic's industry. Taking into account the volume envisaged in the draft plan for next year, the industrial production growth rate for the Georgian SSR in 1981-1984 stands at the level of 121 percent, 1 percent less than envisaged by the 11th 5-Year Plan.

In the case of a number of union ministries, and in particular the Ministry for Power and Electrification, the Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry, the Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry, the Ministry of Light Industry and a number of others, tasks arising out of the need for regional development are not fully taken into account and the targets for 1984 are smaller than envisaged by the 5-year plan; in some cases even smaller than those agreed on at the draft stage.

In the past the 5-year plan target shortfall in the case of enterprises of union sections has been made up by the industrial sectors which process agricultural raw material. But because of the considerable grape harvest shortfall the republic will not really have the opportunity to do this in 1984 and for that reason we will lose industrial products worth R1.5 billion in 1982-1984. To fulfill the 5-year plan target the republic will have to find a way of producing extra industrial products worth R250-300 million in 1984.

In this connection we would ask the USSR Gosplan and the relevant union ministries to find the potential and draw up for the enterprises on the republic's territory a program of industrial production for 1984 at the level of the 5-year plan targets and not less than the prearranged volumes. This applies in particular to the state committee for the wine industry whose production program is lacking resources worth more than R200 million. We hope that certain material resources for wine making will be found during the implementation of the 1984 plan.

The experience of implementing the targets of the 9th and 10th 5-year plan and the past 3 years of the current 5-year plan shows that difficulties connected with drawing up and fulfilling approved plans on a territorial scale are largely due to faults in the machinery which is supposed to combine and link sectorial and territorial plans. In fact, in addition to the sectorial plans, union directive organs give the republics plan targets for the whole territory, including all the enterprises irrespective of what kind of ministry is in charge of them. But it is always the republican organs which are responsible for the implementation of these plans since targets for union ministries are planned on a sectorial level and territorial indicators are not directly reflected in the results of their activity.

In view of all this, it might be advisable to implement a complex of organizational and methodological measures to ensure a better and more complete marriage between sectorial and territorial principles of planning and control of the national economy and its individual sectors.

Obviously it would be advisable to make union ministries responsible for the fate of plan fulfillment not only in the sector as a whole but also in the individual territorial zones.

At the same time, territorial organs clearly need more rights and opportunities when it comes to solving questions of developing enterprises in the charge of union sectors and ensuring that they are functioning normally.

Union-level enterprises, which are, as a rule, major economic units with equipment of a high technical standard, plan a significant role in developing the union republic's national economic complex. The results of their work predetermine how successfully regional as well as sectorial tasks will be solved. For example, Georgia has 184 enterprises and associations in the charge of 46 union ministries and departments. They account for more than 30 percent of overall production and they employ 44 percent of the industrial production personnel.

The growth in the role and significance of these enterprises and the widening of their production ties the solution of questions relating to their collaboration with other components of the republic's economy and the conduct of a unified regional policy in respect of them becomes more and more difficult. Who is supposed to marry the sectorial and regional interest of these enterprises at local level? And who is supposed to take charge of their operations? It is becoming more and more difficult to do this from the center and less and less possible, of course. We have found certain ways and means of arranging close and all-round collaboration with many union ministries which in many ways makes the situation easier, although there is no legislative backup for any of this.

The sector ministry, in many cases with its own sectorial interests at heart, is coming up with its own solutions to questions relating to the shaping of long-term and current plans, the establishment of cooperative ties and introduction of the achievements of scientific and technical progress. Often decisions are made which contradict the interests of other sectors and of the region as a whole or which are not supported by objective prerequisites. The situation is also complicated by the fact that enterprises of one and the same ministry in the same region can be under different all-union production associations. The 61 machine building enterprises in Georgia are under 46 all-union production associations whose interests do not always coincide, to put it mildly.

In view of what has been said it might be advisable to create at union republic level facilities for monitoring questions relating to collaboration between and the development of union enterprises. For example, we have already submitted to the USSR Council of Ministers a proposal on setting up a single production association with a special management apparatus made up of existing personnel on the basis of six enterprises of the Ministry of Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and on the basis of a number of their subsidiaries, currently under four all-union production associations. It is gratifying to note that this proposal has met with the requisite support and approval.

A proposal is currently being prepared on setting up in the republic on the basis of 21 enterprises, associations and production units, currently in the charge of 12 Ministry of the Electrical Equipment Industry all-union production associations, a single industrial association directly under the aforementioned ministry. This is very important since their activities are very much interwoven and the present uncoordinated organizational structure and even the presence of a board of directors, whose activity is largely formal in nature, are not providing management for the sector's enterprises.

Clearly it would be advisable to create similar components for managing union enterprises at territorial level in other national economic sectors as well.

We have become very optimistic about the benefits of these measures. The CPSU Central Committee resolution on the work of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee also points out the need for an intensive quest in this sphere.

I would like to touch on another question whose solution, we believe, would be a large contribution to increasing labor collectives' commitment to increasing export deliveries and to creating new types of products, including consumer goods with greater export potential. The process whereby rules and rights in this sphere are becoming tougher and more complicated has had an adverse effect, in our view.

Union ministries and councils of ministers at local levels have practically been deprived of the opportunity to handle even minor funds, to use deductions from revenue (otchisleniya) for the development of a particular production unit, to purchase equipment and essential materials using foreign currency deductions [valyutnyye otchisleniya]. We think it advisable to make union republics' councils of ministers responsible for determing the utilization of resources created in the republic as a result of overfulfillment of export plans. This would largely relieve union organs of the burden of considering matters related to production units subordinate to republics, and the ministries of union sectors should be given corresponding rights at the sector level, that is, a certain liberalization of rules and rights is required in this area.

Comrade deputies! The process of discussing our plans for 1984 fills us all with optimism and confidence in the future. The clear-cut action program approved by the CPSU Central Committee plenum envisages further economic prosperity for all the union republics as integral components of the unified, all-union national economic complex. Therefore, it meets with universal support and approval.

Allow me to assure the CPSU Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet and the Soviet Government that the Georgian working people will devote all their efforts and energy to fully implementing the national economic plans and tasks facing us in 1984. (applause)

UKRAINIAN COMMUNIST PARTY PLENUM REPORTED

PM171700 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 84 First Edition p 3

[Correspondents O. Gusev, M. Odinets, I. Tikhomirov report: "Deepening the Search"]

[Text] Kiev -- Communists and working people in the Ukraine, like all Soviet people, have greeted the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum's decisions and Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech with profound satisfaction. This was discussed at a Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum held on 12 January. There was a discussion of the results of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum and the tasks for the republic's party organizations arising from its decisions and from the provisions and conclusions contained in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech.

A report was delivered by V.V. Shcherbitskiy, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee.

The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum, he said, continued and developed the principled line in the sphere of economic and social policy laid down at the Central Committee November 1982 Plenum. Its essence is the all-round improvement of the economic mechanism and of the style and methods of leadership, the strengthening of state, labor, and plan discipline, and the improvement of the organization, efficiency, and responsibility of cadres.

Matters in the republic improved considerably last year. The rate of growth of production and labor productivity increased perceptibly. The production plans of most of the major types of industrial output were fulfilled. Many hundreds of millions of rubles of above-plan output was sold. There was a substantial increase in the production of pig iron, steel, finished rolled metal, mineral fertilizers, tractors, cement, fabrics, leather footwear, granulated sugar, and many other types of output. The plan for the production of top quality goods was overfulfilled. Agricultural workers produced a good crop of sugar beets, potatoes, and feed crops. Meat, milk, and egg production increased in comparison with 1982. In capital construction the plans for the commissioning of housing, schools, children's and medical institutions, and vocational and technical colleges were met. And 109 major production capacities were commissioned, including the "3000" Mill at the Ilich Plant in Zhdanov, a new power unit at the Chernobyl AES, an oil-refining installation in Lisichansk...

Something that is very important, the plenum said, is that the results of work in 1983 made it possible to reduce and in a number of areas eliminate the lag that had been permitted and to meet the targets for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan. The republic's national income has increased by 12 percent in the past 3 years. It is particularly noteworthy that the entire increase has been secured by increasing labor productivity.

A large program of social measures has been implemented. The plenum cited the following figures: The population's real income increased by 8.2 percent in the republic in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan and 53.5 million square meters of housing were commissioned, which is more than planned.

V. Mironov, first secretary of the Donetsk Obkom, V. Boyko, first secretary of the Dnepropetrovsk Obkom, N. Grinko, the republic's minister of the coal industry, and others noted that these results must, however, be correctly evaluated and viewed as the basis for scaling new and even higher peaks. Much still has to be done, particularly when you bear in mind that in some indicators the republic in the first 3 years has not reached the level projected by the 5-year plan target. The coal industry, ferrous metallurgy, and the light, meat, and dairy sectors, in particular, are continuing to experience strain in their work. The proportion of enterprises failing to cope with output sales plans and contractual delivery commitments and also of enterprises where wages are increasing at a faster rate than labor productivity remains considerable. Apart from some objective factors, this has been influenced by shortcomings in the use of the production, scientific, and technical potential and of manpower, material and technical, and financial resources.

The state plan for the republic's economic and social development in 1984 is geared to a greater extent than before to increasing production efficiency. The fulfillment of the task set by Comrade Yu. V. Andropov -- to achieve an above-plan increase in labor productivity of 1 percent and to reduce output prime costs by an extra 0.5 percent -- will be of decisive significance. Calculations show that this will enable the republic's industry to produce additional output worth between R1.1 billion and R1.2 billion and to increase the production growth rate to 4.1 percent in 1984.

The republic's communists and working people have received this additional plan target from the party with profound understanding and great responsibility. This is demonstrated by the active support given to the socialist pledges approved by the Ukrainian Communist Party Central Committee by labor collectives in Kiev, in Donetsk and other oblasts, and at many enterprises, and cities. It is now important, the plenum noted, to make this movement as specific and purposeful as possible.

One of the leading avenues in the implementation of the set tasks is to make rational use of the tremendous production potential created in the national economy. The facts show that because of the incomplete use of capacities, a considerable amount of industrial output is lost each year. Some of the commissioned capacities whose startup dates have passed have not reached their design indicators. The shift coefficient of equipment has been falling at some enterprises. In addition to the Kharkov Tractor Plant, the plenum also criticized the following on those grounds: the Zhdanov Heavy Machine Building Plant, Kiev's Bolshevik Plant, Cherkassy's Strommashina Plant, Melitopol's Machine Tool Building Plant, and others. I. Lutak, first secretary of the Cherkassy Obkom, criticized the union Ministry of Machine Building for the Light and Food Industry and Household Appliances for paying insufficient attention to the modernization of enterprises under its jurisdiction.

The report and the speeches paid particular attention to problems of thrift. It was pointed out that a number of ferrous metallurgy enterprises have permitted coke and iron ore consumption above the set norms, coal mines have permitted timber overconsumption, and thermal power stations have permitted fuel overconsumption. A considerable amount of fuel is being used by motor vehicles on empty runs. In this context criticism was leveled at F. Golovchenko, leader of the Ministry of Motor Transport, A. Shevchenko, leader of the Ministry of the Construction Materials Industry, A. Shchepetilnikov, leader of the Ministry of Industrial Construction, and D. Galkin, leader of the Ministry of Ferrous Metallurgy.

The plenum said that the fulfillment of the 1984 plan will depend to a great extent on the skillfull use of manpower.

There are quite a few ways of doing this -- strengthening labor discipline, improving the organization of production, and introducing the team contract. The reduction of labor-intensiveness is acquiring great significance.

The speakers noted that the acceleration of scientific and technical progress remains the main linchpin of the 1984 plan. The number of targets for the introduction of waste-free and low-waste production processes is to increase by 150 percent and increased targets are being set for the commissioning of comprehensively mechanized and automated enterprises. But not all scientific subunits are giving industry the necessary assistance.

The Ukraine is now a gigantic construction site. This year it is necessary to commission new power units at the Zaporozhye and South Ukraine AESes and to commission a number of mineral fertilizer production units and other major projects. Speakers demanded the elimination of the deep rooted practice whereby the commissioning of most capacities, housing, and social, cultural, and consumer projects is deferred to the end of the year, giving rise to hurried and poor quality work.

When examining the tasks facing the republic's agro-industrial complex, the plenum participants noted that all efforts must now be channeled into reducing as much as possible or completely eliminating the existing backlog and into ensuring an increase in agricultural production and procurements in comparison with the 10th 5-Year Plan. Expanding the area sown with corn is an important reserve for increasing the gross grain yield. It is necessary to increase considerably the yield from reclaimed lands.

Analyzing the situation regarding the production of consumer goods, speakers noted the improvements achieved in this important area. Last year the republic produced goods worth about R1.2 billion above the plan. However, many enterprises are still paying insufficient attention to the production of goods in everyday demand. Lvov's Mayak Sewn Goods Association was sharply criticized for poor quality output. The association was visited by Light Industry Minister O. Kasyanenko and his deputies, but the situation has not improved. The services sphere is developing poorly. But his, the plenum said, is of little concern to the leaders of the Ukrainian SSR Ministry of Consumer Services (Minister V. Slinchenko).

Questions of improving the organizational and political work of the republic's party organizations loomed large over the discussion. Quite a few new people have recently joined their leadership. During the reports and elections about 80 raykom and gorkom first secretaries were elected for the first time, as were 20 percent of primary party organization secretaries. Some of them do not have sufficient experience. It was pointed out that some leaders have a poor grasp of economic terms such as prime cost, profitability, and profit, and are incapable of analyzing the situation in depth. For that reason training assumes particular urgency.

Note was made of the need to use all methods of oral and printed propaganda to explain the CPSU Central Committee plenum decisions and the assessments and conclusions contained in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech and to make full use of their mobilizing force. The preparations which have begun for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections are also of help in this respect. The paramount duty of leading and ideological cadres is to guide people toward resolving the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee plenum and to give patriotic ventures timely and businesslike support. Blather, ballyhoo, and formalism must be firmly eradicated from this living work.

The plenum adopted a resolution which says that the republic's party organizations will make every effort to successfully fulfill the tasks set by the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum.

TAJIK COMMUNIST PARTY MEETING NOTED

PM171350 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 14 Jan 84 First Edition p 2

[Correspondent O. Latifi report: "Drawing Attention to Reserves"]

[Text] Dushanbe, 13 Jan -- A routine Tajik Communist Party Central Committee plenum has discussed the results of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the tasks of the republic's party organization arising from the decisions of the plenum and the provisions and conclusions contained in the text of Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech.

The report was delivered by R. Nabiyev, first secretary of the Tajik Communist Party Central Committee. It was noted that the pace of social production has quickened and that labor productivity has increased in the republic. There are also major shortcomings, however, particularly in seed cultivation and the assimilation of crop rotation. Viticulture and intensive horticulture are developing too slowly. Crop yield and livestock productivity are low on a considerable number of kolkhozes and sovkhozes. The situation in capital construction is causing serious concern.

A resolution that was adopted stressed the need to mobilize the masses' increasing labor and political activeness to uncover and utilize reserves, eliminate shortcomings, and comprehensively develop socialist competition for the fulfillment and overfulfillment of the plans for 1984 and 5-year plan as a whole.

ARMENIAN COMMUNISTS, COUNCIL OF MINISTERS MEET

GF170740 Yerevan SOVETAKAN AYASTAN in Armenian 22 Dec 83 p 1

[Excerpts] The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers reviewed the issue on "measures to limit the industrial growth of the Yerevan population." In the adopted decision it noted that due to measures in recent years to speed up the socioeconomic development in small towns and rayons, the distribution of the production powers in the republic has improved to a certain extent and the work to decrease the industrial growth of Yerevan population has progressed.

From 1976 to 1982 the volume of industrial output in the Armenian SSR increased 63 percent and in Yerevan city by 49 percent. The number of workers in the republic's industry sector increased by 33 percent and in Yerevan city by 15 percent.

The Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and Armenian SSR Council of Ministers noted that the measures taken in this direction are insufficient. A number of new industrial projects are being reconstructed in Yerevan including the restructuring and expansion of the enterprises which is resulting in the mechanical growth of the population.

By giving important significance to the limiting of industrial growth of the Yerevan population and the further improvement of the distribution of production powers in the republic, the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and Armenian SSR Council of Ministers urged the Armenian SSR State Planning Committee and Yerevan people's deputies council executive committee to take necessary measures to secure the planned, economically based and comprehensive development of Yerevan, not to allow the new construction and expansion of the industrial enterprises in Yerevan except those which are necessary to the direct services to the Yerevan population, and to satisfy the housing and civil construction needs as well as other events projected by the party and government decisions.

The reconstruction and technical retooling of the operating industrial enterprises should be carried out in accordance with the future growth of output volume based on work production growth without expanding the production areas and without increasing the number of workers.

The Armenian SSR State Planning Committee has been urged to review all the plans for capital investments and reserach on outlining work in all national economy production branches in order to simplify the projects whose construction and outlining for the Yerevan City are not needed and are inappropriate and present proposals to the Council of Ministers exclude them from the plan or change their construction location.

The Armenian SSR State Committee for Professional and Technical Education has been urged to review with the Yerevan people's deputies council executive committee the transfer of a number of professional and technical institutes to other republic cities and rayons in accordance with the scheme to develop and distribute the production powers in the republic by the year 2000 and present corresponding proposals. It has been agreed that as of 1984 the professional and technical institutes of Yerevan should admit only those boys and girls who are permanent residents of Yerevan, except in cases when specialists are being prepared for other regions.

The Armenian SSR State Planning Committee and the Ministry of Higher and Secondary Specialized Education have been advised that while sending the specialist youth, who are graduates of higher and secondary specialized education establishments, to work in Yerevan they should take into account their permanent registration in Yerevan.

It is forbidden to allocate houses to those who are not permanently registered in Yerevan in case their houses are torn down to allocate the land for state and public needs as well as to those citizens who reside in basement residences without permanent registration.

It has been decided that from now on the enterprises and organizations out of Yerevan can construct apartment blocks in Yerevan, or housing funds could be allocated to them only in exceptional cases in accordance with the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers' decision.

It is possible to employ in Yerevan only those people who are appointed in accordance with the decisions of the directive organs.

In exceptional cases highly-qualified specialists can be employed in Yerevan by the permission of the Yerevan people's deputies council executive committee.

The Yerevan people's deputies council executive committee along with the Armenian SSR State committee of work were urged to establish an order of work for the population not working temporarily in the national economy and organize an information transmission service in Yerevan for the improvement of employment in the contingent.

Adopt Plan, Budget

GF172054 Yerevan KOMMUNIST in Russian 1 Jan 84 p 2

[Text] The Supreme Soviet of the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republic resolved the following:

Article 1: To approve the Armenian SSR State Economic and Social Development Plan for 1984 as presented by the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers according to the amendments made by the Planning and Budget Commission; the Industry Commission; the Energy Commission; the Transport, Communications, and Road Construction Commission; the Construction and Construction Materials Industry Commission; the Housing, Municipal Services, and Welfare Commission; the Health Social Security, and Physical Culture Commission; the Education and Culture Commission; the Trade and Consumer Services Commission; the Maternity, Child Development, and the Work and LIfe of Women Commission; the Youth Affairs Commission; and the Protection of Nature and Rational Use of Natural Resources Commission of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet.

Article 2: To establish in 1984 the following growth rates according to the basic indicators of the Armenian SSR's economic and social development:

	Growth in percentages of 1983
National income, derived	5.1
Industrial products around the republic -- overall, of which:	4.1
Production of the means of production	5.2
Production of production materials	2.4
State capital investments	3.0
Freight turnover by motor transport of the general use	8.1
Number of workers and employees in the national economy	1.4
Social labor productivity	3.8
Profit from industrial activity of the subordinate enterprises	13.3
Real income per capita	3.2
Wages fund for the national economy	3.0
Public funds for consumption per capita	2.7
Retail turnover of the state and cooperative trade	5.4
Volume of domestic services to the population	10.7
Number of children in preschool institutions, who are included in the state budget	3.8
Number of those studying at schools	5.0
Discharge of qualified workers from professional and technical educational institutions	3.3
Quality of medical centers	4.2

To construct in 1984 housing from all financial resources on an area of 1.33 million square meters.

Article 3: In the course of implementing the State Economic and Social Development Plan for the Armenian SSR for 1984 the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers should be guided by the decisions of the May and November 1982 and the June and December 1983 CPSU Central Committee Plenums and also by the decisions of the 27th Congress of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee and should institute measures to maximize the use of all available internal reserves in the sectors of the national economy, to intensify and increase the effectiveness of production output on basis of accelerating the introduction of the latest achievements of science and technology, to rationalize the economic system, to spread socialist emulation, to strengthen the state, planning and labor discipline in all sectors of the national economy, and when necessary, to introduce more precise definitions in the planned tasks.

Article 4: To charge the Armenian SSR Council of Ministers with the task of reviewing the proposals and remarks referred to in the conclusion statement of the planning and budget commission and the other standing commissions of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet on the State Economic and Social Development Plan of the Armenian SSR for 1984 and also the proposals and remarks referred to by the deputies at the session of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet and to adopt corresponding decisions.

[Signed] B. Sarkisov, chairman of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium;
M. Bakhchinyan, secretary of the Armenian SSR Supreme Soviet Presidium.
30 December 1983, Yerevan City

GRISHKYAVICHUS ADDRESSES LITHUANIAN PLENUM

PM171641 Vilnyus SOVETSKAYA LITVA in Russian 4 Jan 84 pp 1-2

["Abridged" version of report delivered by P.P. Grishkyavichus, first secretary of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee, at the 12th Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum on 2 January: "A Large Amount of Strenuous Work Lies Ahead"]

[Text] Esteemed comrades! The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum, which took place in an atmosphere of great political enthusiasm, close cohesion, and unanimity, analyzed thoroughly and in depth the party's work since the Central Committee November (1982) Plenum, gave a principled assessment of the results of the fulfillment of the plans for the past year and the first 3 years of the 5-year plan, and outlined the main directions of work and the basic tasks for the next year and through the end of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

It was with great attention that those taking part in the plenum familiarized themselves with the text of the speech of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee. The plenum unanimously approved and supported the provisions and conclusions of this very important political document which is of determining, fundamental significance, and resolved to make them the basis of the activity of the entire party, and all soviet and economic organs, public organizations, and labor collectives. Their fulfillment should be a very important duty for every communist.

The implementation of some measures to improve economic management, enhance organization, and strengthen discipline which has now begun in the country has helped to ensure that in a relatively brief time the state of affairs has been successfully put right in a number of sectors, cadres' initiative and responsibility and their confidence in their own strength have been enhanced, and the masses' creative activity has been increased. The pace of economic growth has increased and qualitative indicators have somewhat improved. As a whole a positive advance has begun to appear in the national economy both throughout the country and in our republic.

In the first 3 years of the 5-year plan the republic's income, according to preliminary calculations, increased by R1.1 billion, or 18 percent instead of the 10 percent projected for the period by the 5-year plan. The proportion of the national income increase effected by raising labor productivity was 92 percent, while the target was 81 percent. In 1983 some 60 kopeks were spent on producing each ruble of the social product instead of the 64.1 kopeks envisaged in the plan.

The republic's industrial workers completed ahead of scheduled the fulfillment of the year's plan for the volume of output sales, and production growth rates and labor productivity growth rates -- that is by the day that the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum opened. According to preliminary figures, the increase in industrial production was 4 percent in comparison to the plan's 2.1 percent. In the first 3 years industrial output rose 13 percent compared to the planned 11 percent. Labor productivity over these years rose over 10 percent whereas the 5-year plan envisaged an increase of 8.2 percent. The increase in production through labor productivity over this period was 82 percent compared to 68 percent in the 10th 5-Year Plan. Consumer goods production developed at a more rapid pace than that set in the 5-year plan, showing an increase of 13.9 percent instead of the planned 11 percent.

The plan targets for the third year of the 5-year plan have been fulfilled by all ministries and departments and by almost all enterprises and associations of union subordination.

Gross agricultural output rose by approximately R.12 million, or 0.5 percent in comparison with the 10th 5-Year Plan on farms of all categories, while on public sector farms it rose by R57 million, or 3 percent. The 1983 targets have been overfulfilled for state purchases of all types of agricultural output except livestock and poultry and the arrears of the previous years of the 5-year plan have been made up.

The targets of the first 3 years of the 5-year plan for assimilating capital investments and for construction and installation work have been overfulfilled by 5.4 percent, according to preliminary calculations, while targets for commissioning fixed capital have been overfulfilled by 7 percent. The program for commissioning housing using all sources of finance was fulfilled 111 percent over this period while the program for general education schools was fulfilled 107 percent, and for hospitals 102 percent. The first power unit of the Ignalina AES and the second section of the Mazheykyay Oil Refinery were commissioned on New Year's Eve.

A wide range of social measures have been implemented. Real per capita incomes in 1983 by comparison with 1980 rose approximately 6 percent. Average wages for workers and employees increased 7 percent, amounting to R178, while the remuneration of kolkhoz members' labor increased by almost 14 percent, totalling R152.

In brief, both throughout the country and in our own republic the positive advances in developing the economy are indisputable.

And that graphically confirms the correctness of the line elaborated by the CPSU Central Committee and the realism and well substantiated nature of the tasks for developing the economy and overcoming existing difficulties.

But, as the December plenum stressed, we cannot and must not overestimate what has been achieved. Essentially only the first steps have been taken. As Comrade Yu.V. Andropov stresses, "the most important thing now is not to lose the tempo we have acquired or the general positive mood for action but to develop positive processes more actively."

The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum discussed and approved and the USSR Supreme Soviet session confirmed the state plan for economic and social development and the country's State Budget for 1984. Today we must discuss and approve the decision on our republic's draft plan and draft budget. They will be described in more detail in the reports delivered by Comrades A. Drobnis and R. Sikorskis. In describing the draft plans, we must note straight away that they are stepped up but realistic. And to ensure their successful fulfillment it is essential from the first days of the new year to get off to a good start, to gear ourselves toward a further increase of intensity in work with no concessions to the difficulties, of which there are many ahead.

Under the conditions of the international situation, sharply aggravated through the fault of aggressive imperialist circles, the unconditional fulfillment of the state plan becomes not only the obligation but the patriotic duty of every Soviet person, every labor collective, every party and public organization.

The main task which the plenum set for the local party organs and party organizations is to ensure the strict fulfillment of Comrade Yuriy Vladimorovich Andropov's instructions to seek out additional production reserves, to organize socialist competition for an above-plan increase in labor productivity and the reduction of the prime cost of output, and to increase the production of consumer goods and improve their quality. To fulfill this task, the plenum demanded that attention be focused primarily on the most acute questions on whose solution the success of the matter will depend.

Both throughout the country and in our own republic, the plan for 1984 was not easy to draw up. Balancing it involved a certain degree of tension. But whatever the reasons for this, as Comrade Yu.V. Andropov has stressed, we must ensure its successful fulfillment. Under these conditions the task of ensuring everywhere the strictest regime of thrift is foremost. From the very start of the year every sector and every collective should be totally clear about the ways, means, and methods they will use to achieve the lofty targets included in the plan for saving all types of resources, semifinished and raw materials, and energy. The question of saving and thrift is thus put on a fundamentally new, planned, footing. Consequently, henceforth this is not only a matter for leading workers' patriotic impulse but also the duty of every labor collective, without which the fulfillment of the state plan is inconceivable. This must be brought to the awareness of every economic leader and every worker.

Work on saving material, raw material, and financial resources in the republic is being performed and is producing positive results. But it has not yet become an unfailing duty and, if you like, requirement, for every collective. There are still very many shortcomings here, and serious, strenuous work lies ahead. The business of liquid fuel expenditure, especially gasoline, is being put right only slowly. The enterprises of the Ministry of Motor Transport and Highways and agricultural organizations are the most extravagant. The demands of the corresponding party and government resolution must be implemented most strictly.

Another example of a thriftless attitude toward semifinished and raw material resources is the example of large above-norm production stocks, which total almost R80 million in the republic. They are a dead load at enterprises of primarily the furniture and wood processing, light industry, and construction ministries and the State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment to Agriculture, and a number of enterprises of union subordination. Taking them up and putting them into economic circulation is primarily a matter for the republic's Gossnab. Unfortunately, its leaders are, to be frank, treating this duty of theirs passively, and this cannot be tolerated.

We are still losing a lot from the embezzlement of socialist property and various abuses by officials who are trying to get rich at the expense of the state and society. Instances of this nature on kolkhozes and sovkhozes were recently described in the republican press by Comrade A. Novikov, the republic's prosecutor. We must resolutely toughen the struggle against such manifestations. Responsibility to the law must be borne in full by every violator, irrespective of his official post and past services. We must also return once more to the question of the role of departmental control. The controllers who sometimes "fail to notice" the most flagrant financial violations and abuses for years on end, thus esentially covering them up, must not remain unpunished either.

The CPSU Central Committee December Plenum outlined very important measures aimed at the further all-around raising of labor productivity and the reduction of the prime cost of output. Shortcomings in the matter frequently begin with blunders when compiling plans. Targets for raising labor productivity are fulfilled and at the same time its growth lags behind the increase in wages. This fundamentally important correlation was violated last year at 4 light industry enterprises and in 20 percent of the industrial construction materials collectives, in the Litrybprom and Vtorchermet Production Associations, at the Mazheykyay Oil Refinery, and several other enterprises. This undermines their economic activity. An end must be put to this phenomenon right now, while the plans for the new economic year are being drafted.

Today, it is not only a case of the unconditional fulfillment of the plans for labor productivity growth and the reduction of the prime cost of output. The plenum unanimously approved the tasks put forward by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov -- achieving above-plan increase of 1 percent in labor productivity growth and reducing the prime cost of output by a further 0.5 percent. This must be regarded as the party's supplementary target in addition to the plan.

Having become the party's directive order, this point henceforth becomes the pivot around which we must organize socialist competition and the drafting and adoption of pledges, open special records of savings for enterprises, construction sites, kolkhozes and sovkhozes, and all organizations, and actively encourage those who achieve the best results. The party and trade union organizations and labor collectives must organize vigorous and effective suport for the enterprise of the intiators of a new movement -- the leading collectives of Moscow and Leningrad, the Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Georgia, and other cities and regions of the country. It is gratifying that immediately after the December plenum this appeal from the party met with a warm response in our republic's labor collectives. The collectives of the Kedaynyay 60-Letiye SSR Chemical Plant, the Vilniusskiy Zavod Toplivnoy Apparatury Imeni 50-Letiya SSR, F.E. Dzerzhinskiy Machine Tool Building, and Linas Production Associations, the Kapsukas Milk Canning Combine, the Kaunas Elektra Plant, the Vilnyus Audeyas Factory, the Kaunas Confectionary Factory, the Tauralaukis Sheep Raising Sovkhoz, Klaypedskiy Rayon, the L. Gira Kolkhoz, Rokishkskiy Rayon, and others were the first in the republic to come out with pledges for the above-plan raising of labor productivity and reduction of the prime cost of output.

There is no doubt that this patriotic initiative will meet with support in all labor collectives and will merge into a mass movement to raise social production efficiency.

In the text of his speech at the plenum, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov set the task of resurrecting the movement to raise the machine shift coefficient and to reach the planned labor-intensiveness for output. It must be said that since the beginning of the 5-year plan the shift soefficient in our republic has failed to increase, remaining at the level of 1.48-1.46.

On the other hand, the labor-intensiveness of output is decreasing only slowly. The main way to improve this indicator is to introduce the achievements of scientific and technical progress, to retool production, and to reduce manual labor. Since the beginning of the 5-year plan, approximately one-tenth of the republic's fixed production capital has been renewed. That would not seem too bad. But there are opportunities for even higher indicators. That is borne out if only by the fact that there is a large amount of uninstalled eqiupment, including imported equipment, as the republic's construction sites. The installation deadlines have already expired for some of this equipment. The reasons for this situation lie mainly in the belated fulfillment of plans for construction and installation work and the lack of areas prepared for installation and in the premature ordering and acquisition of equipment. But there are instances where totally unnecessary equipment is brought in. Proper order must be introduced here.

In the past year the technical standard of production improved somewhat. There was an increase in the number of mechanized flow lines and automated lines, machine tools with numerical program control, and industrial robots. But manual labor in industry is being reduced only slowly, particularly at enterprises of the Ministry of Motor Transport and Highways, and the Main Production Administration of Power and Electrification. And at the Litbytkhim and Elfa Production Associations and the Komunaras and 40-Letive Oktyabrya Machine Tool Building Plants, the number of workers employed in manual labor has even risen recently. We must seek to ensure that targets for reducing the number of workers employed in manual labor are completely fulfilled by every enterprise.

In the system of measures to strengthen discipline and ensure the national economy's rhythmical and precise functioning, important significance attaches to the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee and the country's government on observing contract commitments for output deliveries. The implementation of the projected measures has helped to improve the situation in the national economies of the entire country and of our republic. However, as the December plenum noted, this fundamental problem has still not been definitively resolved. According to the data for the first 11 months of this year, 69 associations and enterprises or over 17 percent of the entire number have again failed to cope with their contract commitments, failing to deliver output worth almost R50 million. The violators of supply disciplines include one-third of the enterprises of the ministries the construction materials industry and local industry, one-fourth of the enterprises of the furniture and wood processing industry, and every third enterprise of union subordination.

As Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted absolutely correctly, there are still "loopholes" here which allow bonuses to be paid when delivery targets have not been completely fulfilled. And the so-called nonfulfillment percentage limit, which has very aptly been termed the indiscipline indicator, is still making itself felt in our country. To interest economic leaders in observing plan discipline and state interests, the plenum instructed the country's government to examine these questions, to draft appropriate proposals, and introduce proper order.

The text of Comrade Yu. V. Andropov's speech and the speeches of those taking part in the plenum paid a great deal of attention to capital construction problems. The state of affairs in this very important field recently has improved considerably in our republic. Thanks to the more persistent concentration of efforts on the most important priority projects and the improvement of the organization of the entire business, in recent years the timely commissioning of the main priority projects has mostly been assured. But there are also substantial shortcomings and unjustified violations of planning discipline. Seeking to create a semblance of successful work, the leaders of construction organizations sometimes unjustifiably concentrate efforts on some projects and commission them ahead of schedule, while for other no less important projects the plan remains unfulfilled. Thus, for instance, in the past year and in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan, as already stated, the construction workers substantially overfulfilled the plans for commissioning general education schools, medical institutions, and other socioconsumer projects. That is praiseworthy. However, the 3-year program for commissioning preschool children's institutions has been underfulfilled by nearly 7 percent. The 3-year plan for commissioning housing as a whole has been overfulfilled by 11 percent, but the limits for cooperative housing construction in rural areas and in a number of cities have remained substantially underused. There is still absolutely no success in eliminating the lag in erecting municipal establishments. These are serious violations of planning discipline for which there cannot be any justification. The plenum stressed that particularly strict demands must be made regarding the fulfillment of the plans for constructing housing, schools, hospitals, children's preschool institutions, and municipal and consumer projects. We must unconditionally fulfill this instruction of the party's unconditionally.

All our efforts in the economy, Comrade Yu. V. Andropov points out, are ultimately aimed at improving the people's living standard. That is the main sociopolitical aim of our plans.

In this respect much has been done and is being done. The plan for 1984 also provides for a further improvement in the living standard.

The CPSU Central Committee plenum paid great attention to the further implementation of the Food Program. Positive advances in developing the republic's agriculture are noticeable. But we have still not scaled the heights projected by the Food Program in the production of a number of very important types of products.

The main link to which we must cling strongly and where we must work with redoubled energy is raising the yield of crops -- primarily crops like grain, potatoes, vegetables, and protein-rich feed crops.

The plan for the gross grain harvest last year was fulfilled by 87 percent and for the first 3 years of the 5-year plan by 84 percent. In Akmyanskiy, Mazheykskiy, Pakruoyskiy, Panevezhskiy, Shilutskiy, Tauragskiy, and Ukmergskiy Rayons that indicator for the first 3 years was even lower: 73-78 percent. If we compare grain crop yields, we nearly always see a tremendous difference between rayons and especially between farms situated next to each other, possessing essentially identical land and other potential.

What are the reasons for this diversity and ultimately heavy shortfalls in output? There is no point in disgressing and using unfavorable weather conditions as vindication, and indeed it is dangerous to do so. Difficulties of that kind have occurred and will continue to occur. We must bear something else in mind, to wit, the fact that many of our leading farms obtain good harvests of grain and other crops in any year.

That means it is not so much a matter of weather conditions as of the ability to work on the land. A number of farms still lack the proper discipline and responsibility and the leaders of lagging kolkhozes and sovkhozes are not taken to task strictly enough. This leads to the point where the agrotechnical requirements for the land's cultivation and the raising of agricultural crops are intolerably violated.

Last year we succeeded in improving somewhat the cultivation of pulse crops. The areas sown to these crops were expanded. But their yield remains low and for that reason the gross harvest of pulse crops was only 83 percent of the volume projected in the comprehensive measures elaborated for the current 5-year plan. Consequently, this year, as well as expanding areas sown to these crops on some farms, we must focus our attention on measures to increase their yield.

In brief, we must do everything to ensure that this year the grain crop yield is increased to 26-27 quintals per hectare while the gross grain harvest on farms in the public sector is increased to at least 3 million metric tons.

We must pay special attention to potato growing which, frankly, has declined in recent years in the public ecnomy. While during the 9th 5-Year Plan the average annual potato yield on public sector farms throughout the republic was 129 quintals per hectare, which is also very little, in the 10th 5-Year Plan it was 118 quintals, while in the first 3 years of this 5-year plan it has been only 115 quintals. It has reached the point where only Vilkavishskiy, Kupishkskiy, and Plungeskiy Rayons fulfilled the plan for the sale of potatoes to the state last year by means of public farming while in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan only Vilkavishskiy and Akpusukskiy Rayons have succeeded in doing this. An intolerable situation has developed and the most resolute steps must be taken to achieve an improvement in the very near future.

Several questions of the development of vegetable growing, must be resolved more successfully, primarily from the viewpoint of the steady supply of vegetables to the population of big cities of republican subordination and new, expanding regional centers.

To increase the yield of all agricultureal crops, we must complete more rapidly the assimilation of crop rotation systems, improve the quality of soil tilling, and the use of all ways and means of combating weeds, plant diseases, and pests, and perform all these operations within the best agrotechnical periods.

We must be more attentive toward the use of reclaimed land. There are instances when such land fails to produce the expected return because of an unexacting attitude toward agrotechnics and fertilizers. Little attention is paid to modernizing drained and irrigated land areas. The land reclamation organizations' production potential makes it possible to expand this work considerably: This must be done without delay.

Among the measures for improving the standard of arable farming, we must highlight the special problem of accumulating and applying organic fertilizers. It requires comprehensive, and most vigorous measures to effect a radical improvement. Surely we cannot tolerate the fact that in Akmyanskiy, Yurbarkskiy, Raseynskiy, Shilalskiy, Tauragskiy, Trakayskiy, and Shirvintskiy Rayons only 6-7 metric tons of fertilizer are applied to each hectare of land, that is, the same amount as 15-20 years ago? The individual peasant once applied organic fertilizer not only to potatoes and vegetables but also to winter grain crops, and did without peat litter. But now there is not enough organic fertilizer everywhere even for all row crops. The leaders of many farms have become used to relying only on peat and let the straw rot in stacks for several years. This is thriftlessness which we must stop.

We must use resolute measures to introduce extensively the experience of our leading farms which annually apply an average of 15-20 metric tons of organic fertilizer to each hectare of arable land. This is one of the most important reasons why they obtain 35-40 quintals of grain per hectare, 400-500 quintals of sugar beets, and 200 quintals and more of potatoes in any year. Specific measures which must be implemented immediately were indicated in the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee resolution on work to accumulate organic fertilizers in Kapsukskiy and Mazheykskiy Rayons. We must set about implementing these measures in earnest on every farm.

The main task of stockraising now is to carry out the livestock wintering successfully. Here the rule verified by science and practice must be observed everywhere -- the rule of ensuring the intensive feeding of the productive herd, of livestock being fattened in order to obtain good milk yield, weight gains and to sell milk of the best sort and livestock and hogs at heavy weights. For instance, last year we obtained 90 percent of the increase in milk production by raising the dairy herd's productivity. Some 80 percent of the increase in pork production was obtained by increasing the daily weight gains and surrender weight. This will undoubtedly make it possible to reduce the prime cost of output. That means that we must continue to adhere firmly and unswervingly to this line on every stockraising unit and complex.

Before the new year we succeeded in maintaining a positive daily milk yield balance. Unfortunately in some rayons until the past few days daily milk yields lagged behind last year's level. This applies primarily to Pakruoyskiy, Moletskiy, Trakayskiy and, in the last week, Shyaulyaskiy Rayon. The rayon organizations in conjunction with specialists from the Ministry of Agriculture must investigate the reasons for this situation. The present feed structure must promote milk productivity. There is evidently a lack of order in the utilization of feed and of responsibility on the part of farm leaders and specialists. Everything must be done to ensure that in the first days of the year the daily milk yields are secured at a higher level than last year on every farm. The same applies to weight gains for livestock and hogs which are being fattened and to their selling weight.

Now is the most crucial period of preparation for the spring and summer. There are many tasks, including preparing seeds, repairing equipment, training cadres, and other matters. As a whole the preparation of seeds and the repair of equipment have been organized better than last year. However, while throughout the republic as a whole, 68 percent of grain seeds have already been brought up to first class sowing standard, in Trakayskiy, Shakyayskiy, and Akmyanskiy Rayons the figure is only 38-44 percent. The farms and State Committee for the Supply of Production Equipment to Agriculture Enterprises are lagging behind in repairing tractors in Anikshchyayskiy, Vilnyusskiy, and Zarasayskiy Rayons. In brief, there is still a long way to go to complete readiness for the spring sowing, and all this work must be constantly monitored.

We must not slacken our attention toward the solution of the entire range of tasks for the countryside's social development. The broad program outlined by the 10th Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee Plenum must be strictly fulfilled. Work must be stepped up on the construction of apartment blocks, children's kindergartens and creches, canteens, and other social and cultural and consumer establishments, the asphalting of streets in farms' central settlements, and the laying of roads within farms.

We must constantly focus our attention on the problem of keeping young people in the countryside. Unfortunately, last year, despite all the steps which were taken, 50 percent of the intake of the urban vocational and technical schools consisted once again of rural youth.

That means that the State Committee for Vocational and Technical Education, the gorkoms, and the gorispolkoms are still failing to fulfill the corresponding resolution of the Lithuanian Communist Party Central Committee and the republic's Council of Ministers adopted back in 1980.

Comrade Yu.V. Andropov stressed as an urgent task that of ensuring that the market is fully supplied with the necessary industrial goods. It was pointed out that industry is being restructured only extremely slowly for the production of modern consumer goods in great demand among the population. That criticism is also fair with respect to our industry. This year we will still not succeed in making good the previous year's shortfall in regards to the 5-year plan targets for the production of cotton and woollen textiles, knit underwear and outerwear, leather footwear, enamel steel dishes, refrigerators, batteries and adolescents' bicycles.

The question of improving the quality of consumer goods remains acute. A large number of television sets, tape recorders, and refrigerators are still repaired under guarantee because of their poor quality. A large quantity of footwear and sewn and knit articles is downgraded and scrapped or remains in trading organizations. Last year 15 types of consumer goods were deprived of the seal of quality.

Wholesale trade organizations must not be simply intermediaries between enterprises and stores but also real organizers of the supply of the latest goods in the necessary range and of the necessary quality, and must play an important part in regulating production to meet the population's demand. The people's control committee acted correctly in punishing severely the leaders of the Littorogodezhda office for their lack of exactingness toward the sewn goods industry and their lack of discipline in supplying sewn goods to the retail trade.

As you know, the CPSU Central Committee set very keenly the tasks of producing consumer goods and improving their quality. "The time has evidently come," Comrade Yu.V. Andropov notes, "not simply to speak of shortcomings in consumer goods production but of the specific workers responsible for these shortcomings." Consequently, the party, soviet, and economic organs and industry and trade enterprises' party organizations must constantly oversee this problem.

In setting strategic tasks for the development of the national economy, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov noted the importance of conducting the economic experiment to expand the rights of enterprises and step up their responsibility for the results of their work. As well as ensuring the experiment's successful implementation in the republic's local industry and at enterprises of the electrical equipment industry and other sectors, we must prepare in advance for work under the new conditions. Consequently, the experiment's progress must be a subject of careful study for all our economic cadres. Entering the 12th 5-Year Plan with a well organized economic mechanism -- that is the most important task set by the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum in the field of improving the management of our socialist economy.

The CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum set great and complex tasks in all spheres of economic and social development. For their successful solution it is essential to further step up party leadership of economic and cultural building.

Efficiency and an attitude geared to enhancing the communists' vanguard role and the militancy and responsibility of the primary party organizations, and also to improving the style and methods of the activity of the gorkoms and raykoms have been characteristic of the report and election campaign in the republic's party organization.

It took place to a high organizational and ideological-political standard, in an atmosphere of the communists' unshakable cohesion around our party's Leninist Central Committee. This further organizational consolidation of the party ranks and the development of intraparty democracy has been ensured. The party organizations' structure has been improved and the qualitative composition of the elected party organs has been ameliorated.

All this will undoubtedly be a good basis for developing organizational and political work to implement the decisions of the December plenum. We must discuss these decisions thoughtfully and efficiently at party committee plenums and in primary party organizations. But the main thing is to organize their vigorous and strict fulfillment.

Work on the implementation of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum is being launched at a period when preparation for the USSR Supreme Soviet elections has begun in the republic, as it has throughout the country. Election work must be linked closely with the directed toward resolving the specific tasks of socioeconomic development set by the December plenum. The priority task is to mobilize the working people to ensure the rhythmical work of every collective from the first days of the new year.

The text of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speech, the resolution of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum, and the decisions of the USSR Supreme Soviet session must in the very near future be brought to the awareness of every communist and every worker in the republic. The workers in the press, television, radio broadcasting, and all media for exerting ideological influence must propagandize these very important documents vividly and comprehensively.

The working people of the republic, as of the entire country, unanimously approve the party's domestic and foreign policy -- a policy of creation and peace. They angrily denounce Washington's aggressive adventurism and its sinister attempts to gamble with man's destiny. They are fully and firmly determined to do everything in their power for the further consolidation of the motherland's economic and defense might.

Allow me to assure the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee and the Central Committee Politburo that the Lithuanian Communists, firmly and unswervingly guided by the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum and the premises and conclusions of Comrade Yuriy Vladimirovich Andropov's speech, will mobilize the republic's working people to selfless labor and to the successful fulfillment of the plans of the fourth year and the 11th 5-Year Plan as a whole.

DOLGIKH PRESENTS AWARD TO NOVOKUZNETSK WORKERS

PM171655 Moscow PRAVDA in Russian 13 Jan 84 First Edition p 3

[TASS report: "For Shock Labor and Military Feats"]

[Text] Novokuznetsk (Kemerovo oblast), 12 Jan -- Born in the first 5-year plan, Novokuznetsk is today one of Siberia's biggest industrial centers. It is rightly called the city of coal and steel, the city of worker and combat glory. The motherland has given due credit to the Siberians' contribution to strengthening the fatherland's economic and defense might. For the services of the city's working people in socialist building, their major role in the country's industrialization, and their significant contribution to ensuring the defeat of the fascist German aggressors in the Great Patriotic War, Novokuznetsk has been awarded the Order of the October Revolution.

A ceremonial session of the gorkom and the gorispolkom together with representatives of party, soviet, and public organizations devoted to the presentation of the high award was held here today.

A presidium of honor consisting of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo was elected with enthusiasm.

The session was addressed by V.I. Dolgikh, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, who was greeted warmly by those present. On behalf of the party's Central Committee, the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, and the USSR Council of Ministers, he warmly congratulated those present and all the city's working people on the motherland's high award and wished them new successes in labor, good health, and happiness.

The party organizations and labor collectives of Novokuznetsk, like those all over the country, the speaker said, launched an active struggle to implement the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the recommendations put forward in Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's speech. The city's working people will without a doubt apply all their strength, knowledge, and experience to ensure the successful fulfillment of the tasks set, and will further augment their glorious labor traditions.

Novokuznetsk's 50-year history vividly reflects an era of great transformations in economic and social life, implemented by our party and people, and embodies the splendid Leninist idea of the comprehensive exploitation of the major ore reserves of the Urals and the hard coal of Siberia as the foundations for progress by production forces.

The construction here during the first 5-year plans of the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine, mighty coal mines, and new cities was a really nationwide cause. With the enterprises, labor collectives and worker and engineer cadres grew and developed and the remarkable traits of Soviet people's character were forged -- high ideological commitment, industriousness, skill, and boundless loyalty to the cause of the party and people. This was manifested with all its inexhaustible force during the Great Patriotic War. By the second year of the war, 1 in 3 tons of pig iron and 1 in 4 tons of steel and rolled metals in the all-union output of metal came from the Kuznetsk area. Every third tank was clad in armor from Kuznetsk.

In the postwar years Novokuznetsk's industrial and economic potential underwent further development and rose to a qualitatively new level. Much was done to improve people's living standard. Since 1970 alone, apartment blocs with a total area of some 3 million square meters, as well as dozens of social, cultural, and consumer facilities, have been built.

The city's working people today make a weighty contribution to the motherland's might under the party organization's leadership. Plan targets for the production of industrial output in 1983 were successfully fulfilled. The volume of output increased by more than 4 percent. More than 26,000 metric tons of coal were extracted, 120,000 metric tons of steel smelted, and a considerable quantity of other output -- including cultural, consumer, and household goods -- were produced over and above the plan.

The collective of the Kuznetsk and West Siberian Metallurgical Combines, the Abashevskaya and Zyryanovskaya mines, the glass plant, the Santekhlit Plant, the West Siberian TETS, the Sibmetallurgmontazh Trust, and other enterprises and organizations march in the vanguard of the competition.

Soviet people, V.I. Dolgikh went on, are doing active work to implement the decisions of the 26th Party Congress and the subsequent plenums of the CPSU Central Committee. The third year of the 5-year plan is over. The main result of the period which has elapsed is that the course elaborated by our party of further building up the economic potential and increasing the efficiency of social production and on this basis the growth of the people's well-being, is being steadily implemented. The measures being implemented in accordance with the instructions of the CPSU Central Committee November (1982) Plenum to improve organizational work, step up control, and strengthen state, plan, and labor discipline have made it possible to improve the standard of all economic activity and achieve certain positive shifts in developing the economy.

Last year the scale and tempo of social production efficiency and growth increased in the country. The growth in industrial output was 4 percent. Work is being carried out persistently to implement the Food Program and improve Soviet people's living standard. Thus in the first 3 years of the 5-year plan nearly 30 million people received new apartments or improved their housing conditions. Much is being done to further develop health care, public education, and culture.

The most important task now is to eliminate persistently those factors which are holding back progress, to maintain the tempo achieved, and to make that tempo stable. This is the aim of the State Plan for Economic and Social Development of the country for 1984 which was approved by the CPSU Central Committee December plenum and ratified by the ninth session of the USSR Supreme Soviet.

The speaker then dwelled upon the main tasks which must be resolved by the party organization and working people of Novokuznetsk. Their attention must be focused first and foremost on increasing production efficiency and fulfilling the social program. The determining factor in this work is the acceleration of scientific and technical progress. Novokuznetsk possesses substantial scientific forces, especially in ferrous metallurgy and the coal industry, which make a substantial contribution to economic development. Just since the start of the 5-year plan, the introduction of scientific research institutes' developments into the national economy in the oblast has resulted in savings of over R20 million.

At the same time the opportunities for accelerating scientific and technical progress are not yet fully exploited. It is necessary to increase responsibility for the fulfillment of plans for new machinery, strengthen the experimental base, and reduce as far as possible the duration of the whole cycle -- from scientific developments to their mass introduction.

Tremendous significance for developing the economy is attached to the more efficient utilization of fixed capital. The reserves of the city's labor collectives in this respect are far from exhausted. It is necessary to step up the struggle to ensure that the entire equipment pool, every unit, and every machine yields the maximum return and operates to high technical and economic standards.

Questions of reducing labor and material expenditure on the production of output merit special attention. The collectives of Novokuznetsk's enterprises and construction sites must develop widely the struggle to fulfill the tasks put forward at the CPSU Central Committee December Plenum -- to achieve an above-plan increase in labor productivity and reduction in the prime cost of output.

This requires the stepping up of work to strengthen autonomous financing at all levels of production and apply leading methods of labor organization.

This applies first and foremost to the team form, which is being introduced unjustifiably slowly at a number of the city's enterprises and construction sites. The teams' movement to extract 1,000 metric tons of coal or more every 24 hours should be developed in every way, and all the conditions should be created for the successful fulfillment of the pledges they adopt.

The tasks facing the collectives are major and complex. Party, soviet, trade union, and Komsomol organizations must do everything to increase the working people's activity and persistently strengthen production and labor discipline. It is a question of ensuring that every collective and every leader, worker, and specialist wages a daily struggle to achieve high end results, ensure the rational and comprehensive utilization of raw materials and fuel and energy resources, and ensure a high level of organization and order at every work place.

The speaker then dwelled upon questions of the foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet states. He stressed that under the conditions of the increasingly complex international situation, the Soviet Union and the fraternal socialist countries consistently advocate preserving and consolidating peace and developing mutually advantageous cooperation among states, and resolutely oppose imperialism's aggressive policy.

V.I. Dolgikh then read out the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium decree on the award of the Order of the October Revolution to Novokuznetsk, and, to applause from those present, pinned the award on the city's banner.

The speakers at the session -- V.N. Sitko, first secretary of Novokuznetsk Gorkom; L.A. Gorshkov, first secretary of Kemerovo Obkom; N.P. Zaytsev, senior rolling mill operator at the Kuznetsk Metallurgical Combine; Hero of Socialist Labor V.F. Bardyshev, leader of a mechanized purifying team at the Novokuznetskaya mine; Doctor of Medical Sciences K.Z. Borisova, professor at the Institute for the Advanced Training of Physicians; V.F. Kuznetsov, chief of the Directorate for the Construction of Ferrous Metallurgy Projects; and V.P. Zhevago, first secretary of Prokopyevsk Gorkom -- gave assurances that in response to the high award, the working people of the city and oblast will devote all their strength, knowledge, and experience to the successful fulfillment of the 26th party congress plans and will do everything to make the motherland still richer, stronger, and more beautiful.

The participants in the session enthusiastically adopted a letter of greetings to the CPSU Central Committee, USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, USSR Council of Ministers, and Comrade Yu.V. Andropov.

BRIEFS

DEPUTY NOMINATION -- Vasiliy Nikolayevich Kanavalov, second secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee, has been nominated as a deputy of the USSR Supreme Soviet from the Fatma Electoral Okrug No 686. [Summary] [Baku Domestic Service in Azeri 0205 GMT 11 Jan 84 GF]

EARLY JANUARY WEATHER, CROP STATUS REVIEWED

PM171420 Moscow SELSKAYA ZHIZN in Russian 14 Jan 84 p 2

[Agrometeorologist T. Ivashneva report: "Weather and Crops: The USSR Hydrometerology Center Reports"]

[Text] In the last 10 days the weather has remained unusually warm in the USSR's European territory. The mean air temperature for the 10 days was 5-12 degrees higher than the long-term average. The maximum air temperature rose to 1-4 degrees in most of the European territory, to 6-10 degrees in the Baltic republics, Belorussia, the northern half of the Ukraine, and the south of the Volga Region, and to 11-17 degrees in Moldvia, the south Ukraine, Rostov Oblast, and the North Caucasus Region. The number of days of thaw varied on the country's European territory from 1-4 days in northeastern oblasts to 5-8 days in southern oblasts.

On most of the USSR's European territory total precipitation over the 10-day period exceeded the long-term average. There was little precipitation in Moldavia, in the south and the western half of the Ukraine, in southern Belorussia, in places in the Central Region, in the south of the Volga Region, and in the east of the North Caucasus Region. As a result of the mild weather, spells the snow cover thawed and was compacted. Its depth therefore only increased by 1-6 cm. On 10 January the deepest snow cover (25-50 gm) was noted northeast of a line linking Leningrad, Novgorod, Kalinin, Kostroma, Kazan, Ufa, Kuybyshev, and Uralsk, and also in places in Ulyanovsk, Penza, and Saratov Oblasts.

In Lithuania, most of Belorussia and the Ukraine, the southwest of the Central Region, the south of the Central Chernozem Region, the north of Volgograd Oblast, and the south of Saratov Oblast, snow depth did not exceed 5 cm. In the remaining regions the depth of the snow cover varied between 10 and 20 cm.

There is no snow in the fields in the southeast Ukraine, southeast Belorussia, the North Caucasus, and the south of the Volga Region. By day in these regions slight vegetation of winter grain crops was observed, while in the Crimea and Krasnodar Kray they were growing. In the remaining European part of the USSR, winter crops and perennial grasses are in a state of dormancy. Conditions for their wintering are favorable. The minimum temperature at winter grain crop tillering node depth and at grass root neck depth was minus 1-4 degrees. Low temperatures were not observed on most of the USSR's territory. Only on individual days in the east of the Northwest Region and the Ural Region did the minimum snow surface temperature drop to minus 20-30 degrees. This low temperature, however, was not a danger to the winter grain crops since they were under deep snow cover.

In the Transcaucasus the mean air temperature over the 10-day period was 3-5 degrees higher than the long-term average. By day the air warmed to 11-18 degrees, and in Armenia to 5-10 degrees. On the Black Sea coast of the Caucasus and by night the minimum air temperature was positive. On the remaining territory of the Transcaucasus it fell to minus 3-6 degrees, and in mountain regions to minus 8-13 degrees.

The warm weather created favorable conditions for keeping animals out in the open in the regions of transhumance stockraising on the country's European territory and in the Transcaucasus. There was no snow on pastureland.

The unusually warm weather complicated only fruit crop wintering. The high temperatures reduced their winter-hardiness. In the south Ukraine, Moldavia, and the North Caucasus intensive differentiation of fruit buds was under way, and biochemical processes accelerated.

Unusually warm weather for this time of the year persisted in the arable farming regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan. The mean air temperature over the 10-day period was 5-15 degrees above the long-term average, and 2-4 degrees higher in the mountain regions of Alma-Ata and Dzhambul Oblasts, as well as in the Far East Region. In most of the arable farming regions of Siberia and Kazakhstan the maximum air temperature was between minus 3 and plus 4 degrees, and in the southern regions of Kazakhstan plus 5-10 degrees. Conditions for the wintering of winter grain crops were good. On individual days in Siberia and the northern half of Kazakhstan the minimum snow surface temperature fell to minus 20-30 degrees. However, these low temperatures did not threaten the winter grain crop since they were under deep snow cover (10-30 cm and in places 45 cm.). The minimum temperature at winter crop tillering node depth and grass root neck depth was in the region of minus 2-4 degrees.

It was also warm in the Central Awian republics. The mean air temperature for the 10-day period was 1-4 degrees above the long-term average. By day the air warmed to 6-14 degrees, and in south Turkmenia to 15-20 degrees. Only in the mountain regions of Kirghizia was the maximum temperature minus 3-5 degrees. In the republics' arable farming regions winter grain crops were growing.

AGRO-INDUSTRIAL COMPLEX TASKS ASSESSED

PM131632 Moscow IZVESTIYA in Russian 11 Jan 84 Morning Edition p 1

[Editorial: "Higher Productivity in Fields and Stock Units"]

[Text] The year that has just passed, 1983, was not an easy one for agriculture and the agro-industrial complex sectors linked with it. We were put to the test again by drought. The area over which it spread may have been smaller than in the previous 3 years, but it did affect such important grain areas as Kazakhstan's virgin lands, the North Caucasus, and the southern Ukraine.

These are the areas that produce the best wheat. Thus, we did not receive the wheat quantity which we had expected. Nonetheless, the harvested crop was not poor; it is higher than in the first 2 years of the 11th 5-Year Plan.

Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, emphasized in his speech to the December (1983) Plenum that the measures implemented last year made it possible to somewhat improve the provision of a number of food products for the people. For the first time in recent years progress was recorded in such an important sector as stockraising. Procurements of milk, meat, and eggs have increased. The feed base has been consolidated. This makes it possible to expect further changes for the better.

The materials of the ninth USSR Supreme Soviet session tell us of the scope of work to be done within the agro-industrial complex in the new year. Today the agro-industrial complex has been singled out as an independent sector in planning terms, and its targets are elaborated comprehensively, in generalized form, and in detail. The reports by USSR Gosplan Chairman N.K. Baybakov and USSR Finance Minister V.F. Garbuzov contain special "agro-industrial complex" and "financing the agro-industrial complex" sections.

We learned quite a few interesting things from these documents. The volume of gross agricultural output is planned at R140.4 billion for 1984, or R8.4 billion more than in 1983. This entire growth is planned to result from higher labor productivity. Procurements of grain, raw cotton, potatoes, vegetables, and melon and gourd crops are set at the 5-year plan levels or somewhat higher. Procurements of livestock and poultry are set higher than in 1983.

None of this is being done in a vacuum, of course. It has already been repeatedly noted that the agro-industrial complex in our country has accumulated enormous economic potential. This year some R130 billion is being channeled into the development of the unified agro-industrial complex. Capital investments in sectors of the agro-industrial complex represent over 33 percent of the total invested in construction of storage facilities for potatoes, vegetables, and fruit, cold stores, and facilities for feed production and feed preparation. Considerable funds are being allocated to consolidate the food industry. This will make it possible to reduce the time taken to process agricultural raw materials and make sure that everything that is grown is preserved.

Of course kolkhozes, sovkhozes, and their agro-industrial complex partners must respond to the state's concern with renewed efforts. Now, when farms are analyzing the results of what has been done -- and not only over the last year -- it is very important to conduct a quest for optimal solutions to urgent production problems. Present economic conditions make it possible to do this successfully. This, however, requires higher standards of economic work and energetic utilization of the achievements of science and advanced practice in production. The main goal is to achieve further labor intensification, raise production efficiency, and reduce the prime cost of output.

It has been a year since the agro-industrial associations started operating at local level. But have they proved themselves everywhere? Have they become real organizers of the Food Program's implementation? Bearing in mind that the rayon agro-industrial associations are organs of the local soviets and that they have been given considerable authority, it has to be said frankly: No, it is far from everywhere that the year has been spent worthily.

Many rayon agro-industrial associations have failed to find a truly modern work style and have concentrated their main attention on the solution of current questions only. This, in actuality, was also typical of the previous agricultural administrations. But at that time they did not face such complex tasks. It is bad that some ispolkoms have stood aside from the activity of rayon agro-industrial associations, so to speak, and have not helped them. And yet there was need for help. Relations between partners within the associations have not developed and are not developing quite so smoothly. There is still no effective financial autonomy, which would link together the interests of farmers, the associations for the supply of production equipment for agriculture, the associations for agrochemical services to agriculture, enterprises of the Ministry of Procurements and the Ministry of Meat and Dairy Industry, and other agro-industrial complex departments. This is a major question. It is obvious. And it must be resolved.

The "disjunction" between various ministries and departments within the agro-industrial complex leads to a situation where the countryside and the partners serving it, unfortunately, far from fully utilize their resource potential. Primarily land first place.

Farms, rayon agro-industrial associations, and local soviets are called upon to step up their work with the land, accumulate and provide the necessary quantities of fertilizers, prepare equipment for the spring work, and impart new knowledge to people.

New knowledge primarily means study of the zonal systems of land cultivation, which have been developed but, unfortunately, are not being implemented actively enough everywhere and often noncomprehensively.

It is very important to step up the stockraising returns. Feed reserves today are higher than in the 1983-1984 [as published] season. This means that there are opportunities to raise stock unit productivity. It is important to utilize them fully.

And it goes without saying that concern for people must not slacken. The "human factor," according to experts, plays an increasing role in modern production. Local soviets must recognize this. The point is not just to provide the people with good social and living conditions -- this is necessary! -- but also to organize their labor in an exemplary fashion, introduce progressive work methods and collective contracts, and properly encourage the best.

The countryside and its agro-industrial complex partners have embarked on the fourth year of the 5-year plan in good spirits. We wish them a good start and a successful conclusion to the year.

RSFSR OFFICIAL NOTES FERTILIZER SHORTFALL

LD132030 [Editorial Report] Moscow Domestic Service in Russian at 2140 GMT on 8 January carries a 4-minute recorded report by Valentin Andreyevich (Makin), deputy chairman of the Rosselkhozkhimiya Association, on the use of chemical fertilizers in RSFSR agriculture. (Makin) describes in general terms the progress made in increasing yields in the republic thanks to wider use of chemical fertilizers. Local authorities in the republic have analyzed the 1984 plan for agricultural production in light of the guidelines laid down in Andropov's speech at the December plenum, he says, and have found that the technical potential of mechanized units of vehicular transportation enable increases to be made in the volume of agrochemical, productive, and vehicle transportation operations without any additional expenditure. This can be achieved by making better use of working time and introducing progressive methods of labor organization, especially team organization. (Makin) adds, and continues:

"Use of chemicals [khimizatsiya] in RSFSR agriculture could develop at an even more rapid rate were industrial enterprises to strictly observe their contractual obligations regarding deliveries of mineral fertilizers and lime products. Over the 3 years of the current 5-year period there was a shortfall of about 2 million metric tons of active mineral fertilizers in supplies to the republic's agriculture, including over 600,000 tons in 1983. Half of the 80 enterprises of the USSR Ministry of Mineral Fertilizer Production and Ministry of the Petroleum Refining and Petrochemical Industry situation on RSFSR territory systematically fail to fulfill the plan for deliveries. The effectiveness of mineral fertilizers could be considerably greater if we had the opportunity to carry out liming of acid soil well and in good time. Unfortunately, lime substances are not supplied to us in the amounts laid out in the plan."

Agrochemical workers in the RSFSR are convinced that in spite of certain difficulties they will nevertheless fulfill their obligations for the current year, Makin says, adding: This will be greatly assisted by material incentives to workers directly dependent upon final results, namely, upon increased crop yields.

GRISHIN ATTENDS AIR DEFENSE MEETING

PM180855 Moscow MOSKOVSKAYA PRAVDA in Russian 12 Jan 84 p 1

[TASS report: "To Enhance Vigilance and Combat Readiness"]

[Text] The 17th party conference of the Order of Lenin Moscow Air Defense District was held in Moscow, at the M.V. Frunze Central House of the Soviet Army. It discussed the state of organizational and ideological work on implementing the decisions of the 26th party congress and the subsequent CPSU Central Committee Plenums and Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's instructions at the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and measures to further enhance vigilance, combat readiness, and the quality of combat training and to strengthen military discipline among troops in the district.

A report was delivered by Lieutenant General of Aviation V.A. Ponomarev, member of the Military Council and chief of the district's Political Directorate.

The conference was addressed by V.V. Grishin, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Moscow Gorkom.

KUNAYEV ATTENDS C. ASIAN MILITARY CONFERENCE

PM161115 Alma-Ata KAZAKHSTANAKSYA PRAVDA in Russian 6 Jan 84 p 1

[KAZTAG report: "Strengthening Combat Readiness"]

[Text] The sixth party conference of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District was held in Alma-Ata on 5 January.

With great enthusiasm the conference participants elected an honorary presidium comprised of the Politburo of the CPSU's Leninist Central Committee.

The delegates discussed the question of the work of commanders, political organs, and party organizations on fulfilling the decisions of the 26th party congress, the CPSU Central Committee November (1982), and June and December (1983) Plenums, Comrade Yu.V. Andropov's instructions on defense questions, and the USSR defense minister's demands to further enhance combat readiness, increase political vigilance, and strengthen military discipline among the district's troops. A report was delivered by Colonel General D.T. Yazov, commander of the Central Asian Military district.

The report of Colonel K.V. Agafonov, secretary of the District Political Directorate's party commission, was also heard.

The conference stressed that the district's servicemen, like all Soviet people, unanimously approve and ardently support the Leninist domestic and foreign policy of the CPSU and the Soviet state, and the statement by Comrade Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee and chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium, in connection with the siting of the new U.S. missiles in West Europe. The servicemen are fully resolved to strengthen the USSR's defense capability still more insistently, and to do everything in order to be prepared to reliably defend socialist gains, to safeguard the inviolability of our country's sacred borders, and to fulfill their patriotic and international duty.

The district's party organizations are faced with the task of devoting even greater efforts to mobilize servicemen for selfless military labor, to improve educational work, and to further strengthen discipline and organization. Many front-ranking units and subunits, which had achieved high results in socialist competition, were named. Their valuable experience was discussed, as was the vanguard role of communists, who by their personal example and purposeful, enterprising work are achieving successes in the combat and political training of troops.

Speaking at the conference were O.S. Miroshkhin, second secretary of the Kazakhstan Communist Party Central Committee; Colonel General M.D. Popkov, member of the Military Council and chief of the Ground Forces Political Directorate; and Lieutenant General V.F. Arapov, chief of the Political Directorate of the Central Asian Military District.

Taking part in the conference's work were Comrade D.A. Kunayev, member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Communist Party Kazakh Central Committee; B.A. Ashimov, chairman of the Kazakh SSR Council of Ministers; V.A. Makarenko, second secretary of the Kirghiz Communist Party Central Committee; K.M. Aukhadiyev, first secretary of the Alma-Ata Kazakh Communist Party Obkom; Major General Z.K. Kamalidenov, chairman of the Kazakh SSR KGB; major General Ye.I. Perventsev, chairman of the Tajik SSR KGB, and executives from the Central Committees of the Communist Parties of Central Asia and Kazakhstan, party organs of a number of oblasts and cities, the USSR MVD troops in the Kazakh and Kirghiz SSRs, the Lenin Komsomol Central Committee, the DOSAAF Central Committee, and the republic's civil defense.

The district party conference adopted a greetings letter to the CPSU Central Committee with great enthusiasm. The conference participants assured the party and the government that the communists and the entire personnel of the Red Banner Central Asian Military District will devote all their strength, experience, and knowledge to further increasing combat readiness, to reliably defending the multinational socialist fatherland, and to successfully fulfilling the tasks facing the troops of the Central Asian military District in light of the decisions of the CPSU Central Committee December (1983) Plenum and the speech by Yu.V. Andropov, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee.

MILITARY DISTRICT PARTY CONFERENCES HELD

PM161057 [Editorial Report] Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 January Second Edition carries on page 2 under the rubric "Party Conferences" and the general heading" Attention to Key Problems" a 700-word report by own correspondent Major A. Borovkov from the Order of Lenin Transbaykal Military District; a 400-word report by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel A. Yurkin from the Red Banner Transcaucasus Military District; a 200-word report by own correspondent Lieutenant Colonel V. Bezrodnyy from the Red Banner North Caucasus Military District; and a 250-word report by own correspondent Major N. Medvedev from the Red Banner Urals Military District.

Transbaykal Military District: A report was delivered by Lieutenant General V. Lomov, member of the Military Council and chief of the District Political Directorate. Among the other speakers were Army General G. Salmanov, district commander, and Marshal of Engineering Troops N. Shestopalov, USSR deputy defense minister for construction and billeting of troops. The report contains the following concluding paragraph:

"Taking part in the work of the conference were V. Sitnikov, first secretary of the Irkutsk Obkom, A. Badiyev, secretary of the Buryat Obkom; and Lieutenant General of Aviation V. Korolenko, deputy chief of the Personnel Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate."

Transcaucasus Military District: A report was delivered by Lieutenant General A. Shirinkin, member of the Military Council and chief of the District Political Directorate. Among the other speakers were Colonel General V. Arkhipov, district commander; E. Shevardnadze, candidate member of the CPSU Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the Georgian Communist Party Central Committee; Lieutenant General B. Utkin, deputy chief of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate; and Major General B. Sentyurin, chief of troops of the Red Banner Transcaucasus Border District. Also taking part were G. Andreyev, secretary of the Armenian Communist Party Central Committee, and I. Mamedov, secretary of the Azerbaijan Communist Party Central Committee.

North Caucasus Military District: The report was delivered by Colonel General V. Meretskov, district commander. Among the other speakers were I. Bondarneko, first secretary of the Rostov Obkom, and Lieutenant General A. Agafonov, chief of the Personnel Directorate of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate.

Urals Military District: Reports were delivered by Lieutenant General V. Sharygin, member of the Military Council and chief of the District Political Directorate, and by Colonel General I. Gashkov, who is identified as district commander. Among the other speakers were B. Yeltsin, first secretary of the Sverdlovsk Obkom, and Lieutenant General V. Balakirev, executive secretary of the Soviet Army and Navy Main Political Directorate Party Committee.

GORSHKOV PRESENTS AWARD TO SUBMARINE CREW

PM151457 Moscow KRASNAYA ZVEZDA in Russian 13 Jan 84 Second Edition p 1

[Report by Captain Lieutenant A. Beledeyev: "Crew Receives Defense Minister's Pennant"]

[Text] Red Banner Northern Fleet -- High results in combat and political training and in socialist competition have been achieved by the crew of a nuclear missile submarine. A major contribution to the common success was made by officers B. Popov, I. Kazakov, B. Lyaskalo, and N. Vivtonenko.

All combat training tasks and fire exercises here have been solved in a way assessed as "excellent." The crew has been recognized as the best in the Navy in terms of missile training.

The other day, Admiral of the Fleet of the Soviet Union S. Gorshkov, commander in chief of the Navy, ceremonially awarded the crew the USSR Defense Minister's Pennant for Courage and Military Valor. It is worth noting that this is the third crew in this unit to have gained such an honorable award for its high combat skill and training.